

ANTIOCH JOURNAL

LAKELIFE

'A Day
in the
Life'

PAGE A25



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Chilly dip

Antioch High School cheerleaders trade in
their pompoms for plunge trunks / Page A5



Members of Antioch Community High School's varsity cheerleading squad run into Lake Michigan for the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge. The March 3 event raised funds to benefit the Special Olympics.

Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

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► Lakes falls short of regional title in 91-72 high-scoring shootout with Mundelein.

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this week's stories

 **NORTHWEST
NEWS GROUP**
OF GREATER CHICAGO

Volume 121
No. 10



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Shining bright through memories



Shane Thomas, 9, keeps his candle lit during a vigil for Antioch Elementary School second-grader Zachary Taylor, who was killed in a car accident Feb. 24 in Wisconsin. The vigil was hosted by Zachary's friends and classmates at Williams Park Pavilion in Antioch.



Mike Taylor talks about his son, Zachary, as 11-year-old Amanda Poders listens during a vigil in honor of Zachary at the Williams Park Pavilion in Antioch. Zachary, who was a second-grader at Antioch Elementary School, was killed in a car accident Feb. 24 in Wisconsin.

Photos by Sandy Bressner -
sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

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LAKE COUNTY

Schools deal with alleged sex crimes aftermath

Round Lake, Mundelein district officials take steps to talk to, reassure students, parents

By MATT PERA

mpera@nwnewsgroup.com

During the last week of February, two high schools — Mundelein and Round Lake — saw employees arrested for sex offenses involving students.

Both administrations now are grappling with how to deal with the residual issues caused by the incidents.

Mundelein High School math teacher Scott Lempa, 33, of 2016 Clematis Drive, Algonquin, was arrested Feb. 27 and charged with three counts of child pornography, a Class 1 felony.

The day before his arrest, Mundelein police began investigating a complaint of inappropriate conduct by Lempa.

The complaint alleged that Lempa had solicited and received, through cell phone text messages and photographs, child pornography from a female MHS student who is



Francine Cordova
Charged with criminal sexual assault



Scott Lempa
Charged with 3 counts of child pornography

younger than 18.

Lempa has been a math teacher at the high school for 12 years and also is an assistant girl's volleyball coach.

He appeared before Lake County Circuit Judge Valerie Boettel Ceckowski on Feb. 27 and bail was set at \$75,000 cash. Ceckowski also specified that no contact would be allowed with the victim or Mundelein High.

The high school has placed

Lempa on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

It was not the first time that week that an arrest was made of a high school staff member who allegedly had an inappropriate relationship with a student.

On Feb. 26, Round Lake Police Chief Cliff Metaxa announced in a written statement that his department had arrested Francine Cordova, 32, of 19 N. Cedar Lake Road, on Monday afternoon.

Cordova, a teacher's assistant at Round Lake High School, was charged on Feb. 28 with one count of criminal sexual assault for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old student.

The juvenile was a student in a class for which Cordova was an assistant, Metaxa's statement said.

Cordova appeared in Lake County Bond Court the day she was charged, and was remanded

to Lake County Jail on \$40,000 bond.

According to Jerri Ryan, Round Lake District 116 attorney and spokeswoman, Principal Jeff Brierton has directed staff at the school not to discuss the matter with students in a classroom setting.

Ryan added that students could discuss the matter with teachers outside of class time.

"The teachers can handle those things with the students to make them feel secure so they can focus on their education," she said.

Brierton also sent a letter to parents addressing the arrest. He added that the district will conduct its own investigation.

"Round Lake School District 116 is fortunate to employ many outstanding teachers, administrators and support staff members, and we are all very saddened by this matter," Brierton's letter stated. "As we proceed with our investigation, we

will take all reasonable steps to continue to address any questions that you or your children may have."

While Mundelein High School District 120 co-Interim Superintendent Linda Hanson said she would not speak directly about the Lempa case, she agreed to talk about the district policy regarding sexual relationships between teacher and student.

She said the staff was aware of what is considered inappropriate behavior.

"I think that most schools have very clear expectations for teaching staff and we would certainly be one of those schools," she said.

"It's more an ongoing awareness that we have."

Hanson added that students have been reminded that counseling is available to those who wanted to talk about their reactions to the charges brought against Lempa.

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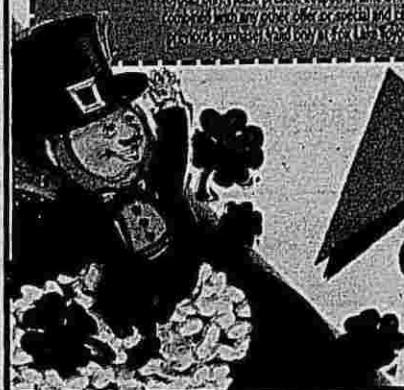
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About us

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LAKE COUNTY JOURNALS

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Accuracy is important to us at the *Antioch Journal* and we want to correct mistakes promptly. If you believe a factual error has been published, please bring it to our attention.

Call Larry Lough at 847-223-8161 or e-mail him at llough@nwnewsgroup.com

Editor's Choice by Larry Lough

If it's news, you need to know it now

What is news? Good question. The news business has been debating that question in recent days and weeks. The death of Anna Nicole Smith? The haircut of Britney Spears? TV news has given us wall-to-wall coverage. Why? People watch it. Oh, they say they don't. The Boston Globe received tons of criticism for its front-page story about Tom Brady, the New England Patriots quarter-

back who has fathered a child out of wedlock.

The critics screamed, That's not Page 1 news!

But guess what was the most e-mailed and most searched story on Boston.com.

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Thanks for reading the Journal - in print and online.

This Week's Highlights



Chris Padgett - cpadgett@nwnewsgroup.com

GRASSROOTS GROUP ADVOCATES SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM

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REPLICA TELESCOPES, ASTROLABES COME TO ADLER PLANETARIUM

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Plus PHOTO ESSAY CONVEYS "A DAY IN THE LIFE" OF LAKE COUNTY

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HEALTH & FITNESS 2007

INSIDE

NORTHWEST NEWS GROUP
OF GREATER CHICAGO

"Serving our communities to make them better places to live"

"Why God placed me on this earth is to work with kids and their families."
—Jimmie Smith, retiring executive director of Kids Hope United's northern region (see story on A9)

LAKE BLUFF

Cheerleaders take the ultimate plunge

Hundreds dive into frigid Lake Michigan waters to benefit the Special Olympics

By TARA CLIFTON

tclifton@nwnewsgroup.com

LAKE BLUFF — Almost everyone who ran into frigid Lake Michigan on Saturday yelled, but one of the loudest groups was the Antioch Community High School cheerleaders.

The girls might have had piercing screams, but they were tough. Several waded at least waist deep into the 36-degree waters.

One of those girls was Mary Kate Dvorak.

"I don't know," Dvorak said while shaking after her icy plunge, but she smiled as if it was her birthday. "I just kept going."

She half swam, half ran to the men dressed in what looked like special fire suits. Mary Kate slapped one of the men's hands, then quickly made her way to shore.

Mary Kate, a junior, was one of 10 Antioch cheerleaders and dozens of groups that participated that day in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge 2007, a fundraiser that benefited the Special Olympics of Illinois.

Those who plunged gathered donations before the event, said Joe Pena, Torch Run director for Illinois.

All except 20 percent of the money raised will go to the Special Olympics program, Pena said. The 20 percent is used for sweat shirts and lunch for participants, and the expenses of hosting the event.

Laura Tielke, an applied technology teacher at ACHS, encouraged the cheerleaders to get involved.

Tielke said that she and her family have been involved with the Special Olympics for years. Her son, Matt, 19, has been a Special Olympian since he was 8. Matt swims and lifts weights.

Tielke ran into Lake Michigan along with the cheerleaders, wearing a long-sleeved shirt, leggings and black shorts.

The cheerleaders, however, wore black shorts and black t-shirts with "Antioch" emblazoned across the chest. The girls wore either flip-flops or water shoes.

The Antioch cheerleaders wore tame attire compared to several other groups. One cluster of men called themselves the Baywatch Babes, and donned blonde wigs and red tank tops, which were bulging with tennis balls.

The festivities before the plunge were electric with anticipation, and the cheerleaders kept the atmosphere spirited.

The Antioch teens weren't only loud



On the Net: To see a video about the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge 2007, visit LakeCountyJournals.com.



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

Members of Antioch high school's varsity cheerleading squad splash through the waters of Lake Michigan for the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics.

while in the water, but also before taking the polar plunge. They cheered repeatedly in the warming shelter, performed jumping jacks to stay warm, and linked arms in a pow-wow circle.

"They're a great group of girls," Tielke said.

Mary Kate said she loved trying something new for a good cause.

"Basically we're crazy," she said, laughing. "How many times do you get to jump in a frozen lake?"

Junior Tiffany Fandre, nervous before she leaped into the water, kept her thoughts on the reason why they were

there.

"It's a good cause," she said. "We're raising money."

Each Polar Plunger is required to raise a minimum of \$75, Tielke said. The cheerleaders each reached that goal, and Tielke raised \$500 herself.

Antioch Cheerleading coach Robin Gwinn said she was proud of her girls for being brave enough to jump into the lake to help others.

"It was a great opportunity to serve this way," Gwinn said. "This isn't really benefiting them, it's benefiting the Special Olympics."

Our Town

Scouts seek shoes

Antioch Junior Girl Scout Troop 2596 wants your smelly old gym shoes, and they hope to collect 5,000 of them.

The girls are collecting the shoes to donate them to Waste Management, which will ship them to Nike. The shoe company will then grind them up and turn them into gym floors and

playgrounds.

Shoes can be dropped off at the Antioch parks office, as well as other locations around town.



Tara Clifton

Those who enjoy the fine arts should head over to the **Antioch Fine Arts Foundation**.

Jim Brooksher, known for his watercolor and oil paintings, will be the featured artist for March, with his works displayed in the White Room at the foundation.

For more information, call (847) 838-2274.

Congratulations to **Antioch Community High School's sports teams!** They did very well in recent state and sectional tournaments.

The school's dance team placed first in kick and second in hip-hop in the Feb. 25 Team Dance Illinois contest in Peoria.

Cheerleaders placed sixth in the IHSA state finals, and brought home the school's first North Suburban Conference championship of the year.

Girls' bowling placed seventh in the sectional tournament, and four wrestlers placed third in the Prairie Division and seventh at regionals.

• If you have interesting information or anecdotes to submit for "Our Town," e-mail reporter Tara Clifton at tclifton@nwnewsgroup.com.

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847-487-8400**ANTIOCH****Technology breeds new type of bully**

By TARA CLIFTON

tclifton@nwnewsgroup.com

ANTIOCH — As the new principal of Antioch Upper Grade School, Jim Kallieris knew he would have a lot on his plate.

But one item he didn't expect was cyberbullying, which is when electronic communication devices are used to taunt or threaten others.

"Oh yeah, I got that right away," Kallieris said. And he also dealt with good old fashioned bullying in the school yard.

This year, however, School District 34 administrators decided they have seen enough of classmates being mean to each other. And Antioch Upper Grade School is the first to start the experiment.

This academic year, the middle school has pledged to eliminate bullying within its walls.

"It's a hefty goal, but something we're working toward," Kallieris said.

To that end, teachers and staffers have introduced programs and lessons to Upper Grade students, starting out with the sixth-graders, Kallieris said.

For example, the district invited OMNI Youth Services, an organization that aids students, to conduct a two-day presentation.

Available on the district's Web site, OMNI handed out a flyer that described what a bully is, how that behavior can be curbed, and how victims can defend themselves.

After the sixth-grade presentation, Kallieris said a meeting took place for parents, which had up to 50 in attendance.

Past experiences have led officials to start the bullying program. Kallieris said that watching other schools suffer tragedies also was an incentive.

He mentioned such incidents as the one that happened at Columbine High School, where students who had been harshly bullied lashed out with guns.

See BULLIES, page A12

What about the other districts?

Administrators from School District 117 and School District 41 said that neither district has experienced cyberbullying, but they still have policies in place against bullying.

Lakes Community High School and Antioch Community High School started this year a peer mediation program, where students with disagreements go to student counselors to solve conflicts.

Lakes Principal Jim McKay said that the high school district also has a 9th grade advisory program that has been in place for about four years.

McKay said that the program is a required class that freshman take.

"Kids are given an opportunity to talk about what's going on in the high school," McKay said.

Students learn about bullying and how to combat it, study good sportsmanship, and also get started on college preparation, McKay said.

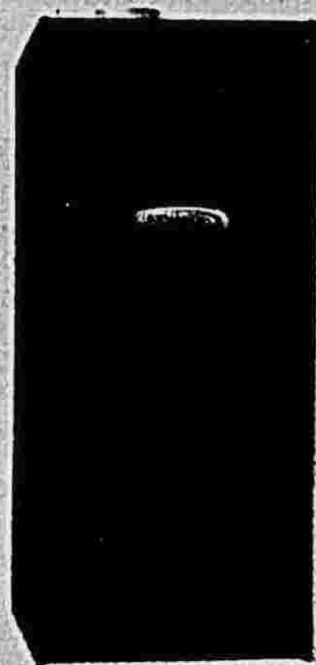
"In the end it has the flavor of making right decisions, and doing the right things," McKay said.

District 41 Superintendent John Van Pelt said administrators do not know of cyberbullying incidents in the district, but district policy states that aggressive behavior will not be tolerated, and offenders will be punished accordingly.

No formal programs exist to discourage bullying, Van Pelt said, but posters and teachers inform students that it will not be tolerated.

However, Van Pelt said that schools are working on a different approach to bullying.

"As important as what we tell students is what we do," he said. "The way school staff works together speaks volumes to students."

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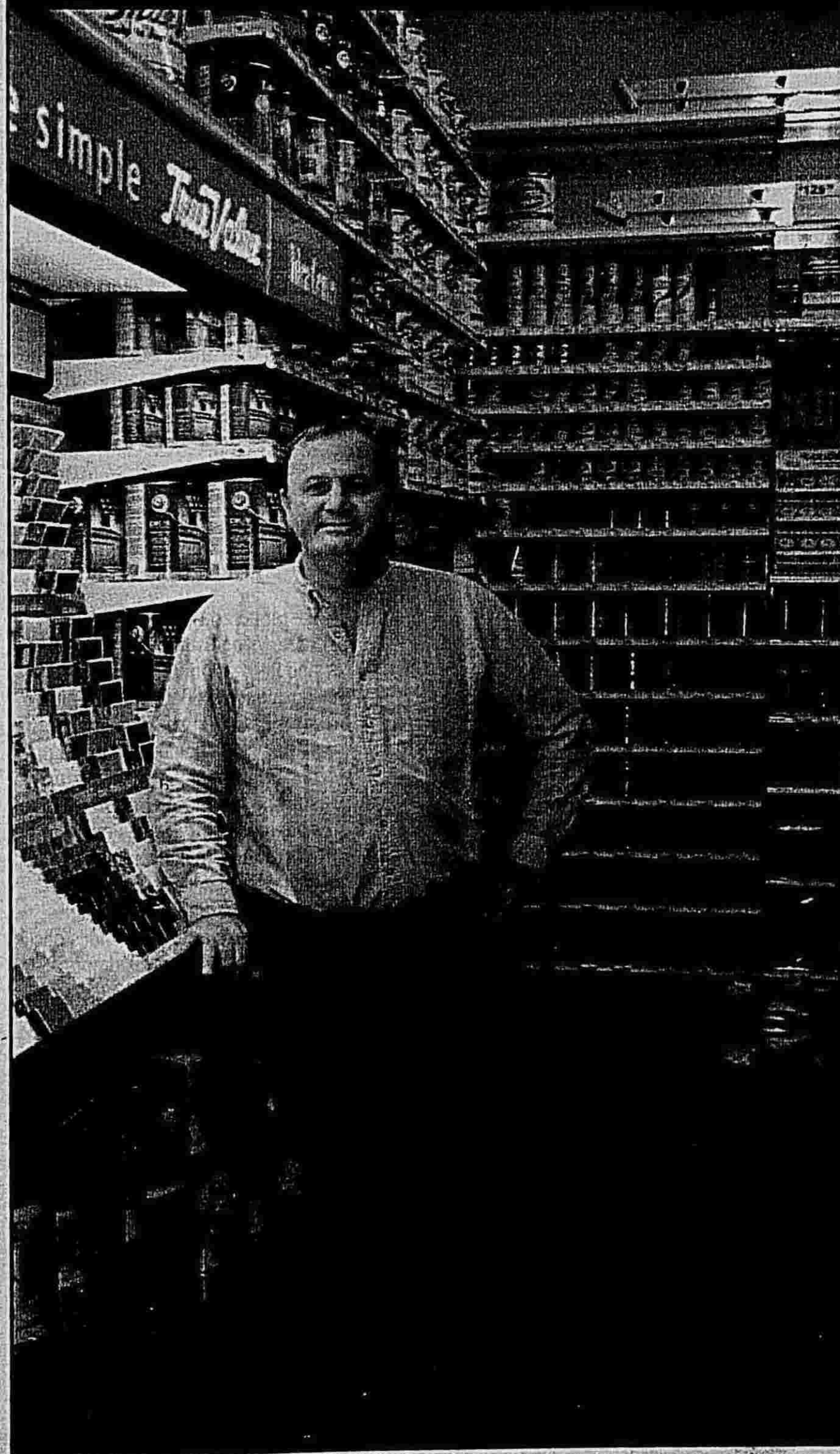
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"I've had the occasion to work with other True Value owners and I've always recommended State Bank of The Lakes, they are very personal and it's just a great working relationship," Stan said.

The ability to work with a specific person at the bank is another reason Stan recommends State Bank of The Lakes. He's worked with Bev Terry for over 20 years and couldn't imagine going anywhere else. "No matter what comes up I am never redirected to another department or get lost in the shuffle. They are my primary bank."

Stan owns and operates the Antioch True Value, Island Lake True Value and Schultz True Value in Chicago. He believes State Bank of The Lakes is fair, personal and competitive and if he has another opportunity or had to do it all over again State Bank of the Lakes would be his first choice.

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● Neighbors



Jacob Lanahan of Antioch

I grew up in:
Antioch

My family:
Mom and sister Jordan

My pets:
Belle, my beagle

Occupation:
Fourth grade student

Hobbies:
Baseball, soccer, football, collecting
baseball cards

Last good movie I saw:
"Flushed Away"

**What's your favorite band or music
right now?**
Garth Brooks

Last good book you've read:
"Gregor the Overlander"

Favorite restaurant:
Max and Erma's

Favorite meal:
Pizza

**If I could have one super power, it
would be:**
A vaporizer for bad people

My dream job:
Professional baseball player

My dream car:
Corvette

My pet peeve is:
Being poked

My dream vacation would be:
Florida

• If you have a "Neighbor" whom we
should profile in this column, call the
Lake County Journals at (847) 223-8161,
or e-mail antioch@weeklyjournals.com.

Village OKs sewage treatment changes

By TARA CLIFTON
tcclifton@nwnewsgroup.com

ANTIOCH — As state and local officials wade through the process of revamping the village's sewage treatment plant, costs are rising slightly but are still close to earlier estimates.

On March 5 the Village Board approved to spend an extra \$2 million to meet Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards, Trustee Barbara Porch said.

In March the engineering firm Applied Technologies created and submitted to the IEPA a detailed report and design for repairs and improvements to Antioch's 40-plus-year-old sewage treatment plant.

Officials did not seem surprised by the IEPA's request.

When engineers submitted the sewage treatment plant report in March 2006, project costs were estimated to be as much as \$13 million. In September 2006, that price

was increased to \$15 million.

Now, with the additional funds approved, the project could cost \$17 million, Porch said.

Village officials will be able to move forward with revamping the sewage plant once it gets the green light from the IEPA.

Once completed, village engineers have said that the new plant will have a greater flow capacity, increasing from 1.6 million gallons of water a day treated to 2 million gallons a day.

The cost of services for residents will remain the same or decrease slightly.

East of Deep Lake Road, water and sewer customers could pay a total of \$86.45. Currently, they are paying \$87.25.

On the west side of Deep Lake Road, customers could pay \$78.25 under the new system, which is what they are paying now.

Club lets students take on legal roles

By TARA CLIFTON
tcclifton@nwnewsgroup.com

ANTIOCH — Barbara Mason gets a smorgasbord of students who join Antioch Community High School's Mock Trial Club.

And she likes it that way, the applied technology teacher said.

Not only do aspiring lawyers join the club, but also drama students, those who enjoy public speaking, and "others who just love it," Mason said.

The Mock Trial Club ended its second season last weekend with the Illinois State Bar Association's state tournament, which brought 48 teams to Springfield to test its legal knowledge.

Mason said that students take on various roles such as a lawyer, witness and plaintiff. State judges and lawyers then rated the student's performance during the fake trial.

Antioch did not advance to state, but Mason said she is very proud of Emma Scheidt, a junior who won outstanding witness.

Mason said that each school that competes uses the same material. In this case it was a trial about a student who alleged he was not given due process.

"It really is a higher level of thinking," Mason said. "When you get to the state competition, it's very, very tough."

But the club put in long hours of practice before the big contest. The Illinois State Bar Association distributed materials for the mock trial in November, Mason said, and the 10-student team analyzed the issues and created a battle plan.

As the number of days to the tournament grew smaller, two judges and a lawyer attended practices to advise the students, Mason said.

"The goal really is to teach these skills to kids," she said.

● Local Digest

Easter parade

The Village of Antioch's Parks and Recreation Department is looking for residents to participate in its Easter Parade and egg hunt.

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 7, with line-up starting from Skidmore Drive. The route ends at Williams Park, where the egg hunt will take place. No parking is available at the park, so parade participants are asked to arrange for rides back to the parking lot at Skidmore Drive. Cost to get involved is free, and more information can be found by calling (847) 395-2160.

Bowling afternoon

The Exchange Club of Grayslake and other Lake County exchange clubs will host its annual Bowl-A-Thon for the prevention of child abuse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18, at Bertrand's Bowling Lanes, 2616 Washington St., in Waukegan.

Donations and raffle items are being sought for the event. For more information, call (847) 223-4502.

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ANTIOCH

NADCA

Passing along his passion

Kids Hope director retires after 30 years of service

By TARA CLIFTON
tclifton@nwnewsgroup.com

LAKE VILLA — Jimmie Smith never really had a plan for his life when he was younger. His path still isn't set in stone.

Smith, who is retiring in mid-April from his job as executive director of Kids Hope United's northern region, said he did poorly at Zion-Benton High School.

He focused on working two jobs and following a strong work ethic instilled by his father. Smith's grades suffered as a result.

And because of this, Smith thought he was wasn't good enough for college. Even his guidance counselor told him so.

Smith was going to attend a trade school to become an auto mechanic when one day he happened to drive past Carthage College, in Kenosha, Wis.

He decided to enroll on a whim, and was shocked when he was accepted, although on academic probation.

After he graduated, Smith went to graduate school, then

started a job with the Department of Child and Family Services, where he stayed for seven years.

Smith, who lives in Winthrop Harbor, began to realize that he had a purpose after all.

"I'm a product of what God can do with someone [for which] he has a higher design."

Hearing this story from Smith is sort of a surprise. One could think that he would be the type of person that could predict his own future.

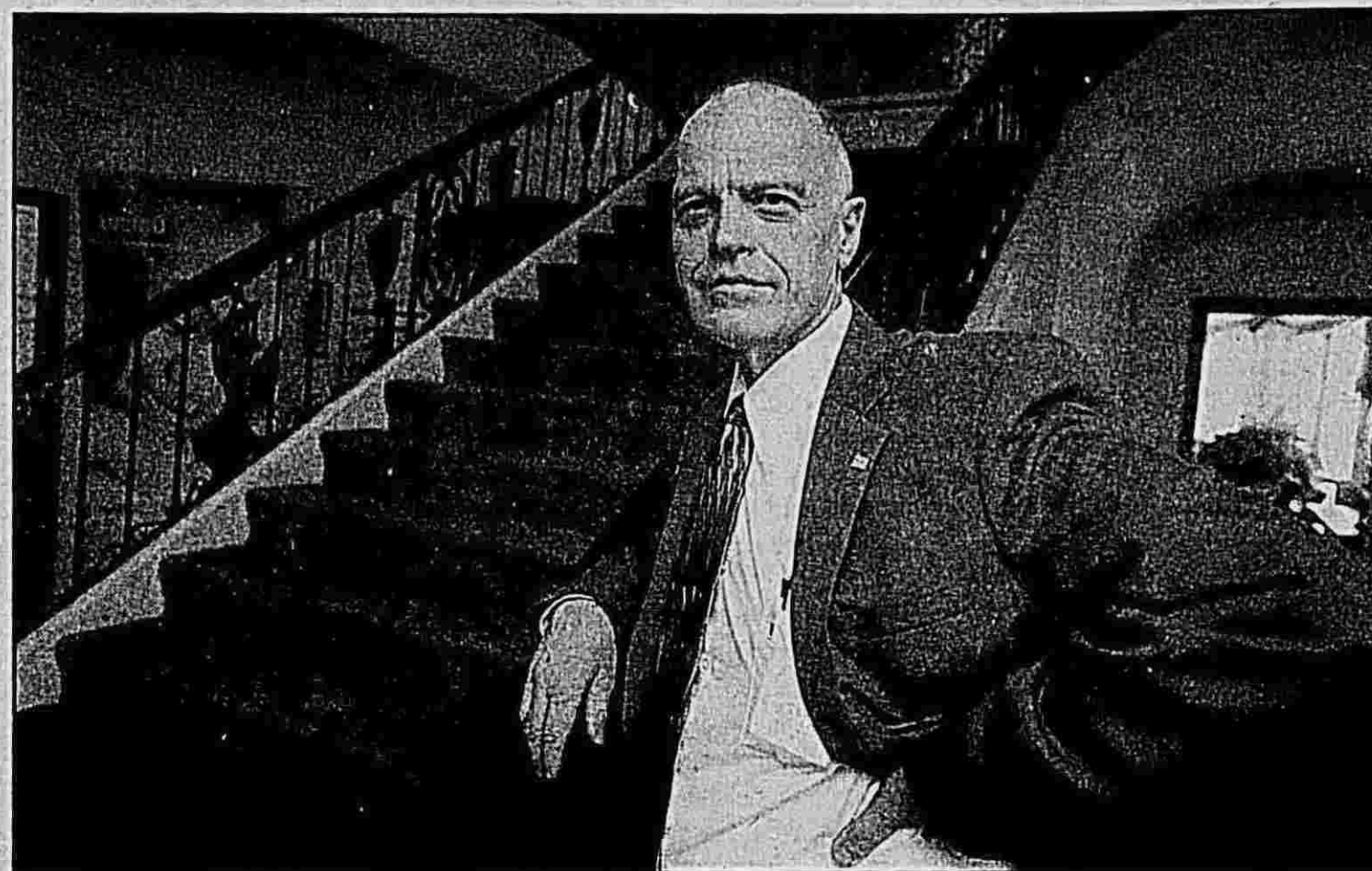
But for Smith, he relies upon divine direction, and simply does what he can.

And Smith has done much during his 30 years as director. He reinstated the agency's residential treatment service in 1992, expanded services to Wisconsin in the 1980s, and helped develop the Child Abuse Prevention Program.

Mark McHugh, who has social work experience in Chicago, will take Smith's place.

Smith doesn't spend time thinking of his accomplishments.

"Why God placed me on this



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

Jimmie Smith, in the lobby of the Richardson House on the campus of Kids Hope United in Lake Villa. He will be retiring as executive director of the organization March 16 after 30 years of service.

earth is to work with kids and their families," Smith said. "But it's not anything I've done, it's what we've done."

Smith said that when he steps down from the director's chair in April, he will work with the agency part time, traveling nationwide as a consultant.

At the top of his priority list

is to spend time with his wife and two sons and their families.

The fire in his heart for children, though, still burns strongly. Smith talked extensively about his concerns that children don't have much of a childhood anymore.

Technology creates a frenetic lifestyle, gaining access to drugs

is easier, and the influence of pop culture seems to have a negative effect, he said.

"It's just a different era," Smith said.

Children need to be nurtured, he said, one must always have faith that things will get better.

"Hope is the foundation of everything we do."

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ANTIOCH

- **Antioch Community High School Board meeting.** 7:30 p.m., third Thursdays.
- **Grass Lake District 36 School Board meeting.** 7 p.m., second Tuesdays.
- **American Business Women's Association meeting.** 8 a.m., second Wednesdays. Keller Williams Realty on Rt. 83 (south of Rt. 173). Call Nancy at (847) 838-6500 for information.
- **Bingo.** 12:45 p.m., Mondays. The Senior Center. Call (847) 395-0139 for details.
- **Bingo.** 6:45 p.m., Tuesdays. Antioch VFW. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Call (847) 395-5393 for more information.
- **Pinochle.** 12:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays. The Senior Center. Call (847) 395-0139 for details.
- **CPR classes.** 6 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays. Squad Building, 835 Holbek Dr., sponsored by Antioch Rescue Squad. \$5 fee. Call (847) 395-5511 to learn more.
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly meeting.** 6 p.m., Wednesdays, weigh-in, 7 p.m. meeting. The Senior Center, 817 Holbek Dr. Call Dorothy at (847) 395-7407 or Betty at (847) 838-3907 for more information.
- **Kiwanis Club of Antioch meeting.** Noon, Tuesdays. Petrucci's Italian Market & Cafe, 311 Depot St. The public is welcome to join and share experience, knowledge and service project ideas. Contact Melissa at (847) 489-8044, e-mail at mjrighoni@hotmail.com, or Larry Mondie at (847) 650-9530, e-mail at brscoops@aol.com for more information.
- **Antioch Women's Club meeting.** 1 p.m., second Wednesdays. Call Maureen Fremgen at (847) 395-5968 to learn more.
- **AARP Chapter 387 (for adults 55+) meeting.** 1 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays. The Senior Center, 817 Holbek Dr. Call Sharon Nowak at (847) 395-5068 to learn more.
- **Lake County Spinner's Guild meeting.** 10 a.m., third Thursdays. Call Chris at (847) 840-6464 for details.
- **Lakes Area Community Band rehearsal.** 7-9 p.m., Mondays. Antioch Community High School band room. Area musicians high school age and older are welcome to join. No auditions. Call Debbie Davis at (847) 395-0272 to learn more.
- **Open gym.** 7-9 p.m., Sundays. Antioch Community High School. \$2. Adults only.

CRYSTAL LAKE

- **Crystal Lake Toastmasters Club meeting.** 8-10 a.m., first and third Saturdays at Amcore Bank

Building, Rt. 14 and Pingree Rd. Develop your presentation and leadership skills. For information, call Steve at (847) 526-1525 or visit <http://user.mc.net/~toast1>.

FOX LAKE

- **Leukemia-Lymphoma Society fundraiser.** 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 10. American Legion Hall, Post 703, Rt. 12. \$2 donation requested, children under 15 are free. Live music, DJ, raffles, cash bar, and food and drink for sale. For more information, call Rob Robinson at (847) 973-1637 or (224) 627-3768.
- **"Build Your Own Spuds and Salads" fundraiser.** 4-6 p.m., Sunday, March 11. Evangelical Lutheran Church of All Saints, 5800 State Park Rd. Tickets are \$5 and available at the church through March 4. Proceeds to toward Christian education events for youth. For more information, call (847) 587-7727.

GRAYSLAKE

- **CLC Wind Ensemble concert.** 4 p.m., Sunday, March 11. College of Lake County, James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts, Mainstage Theatre, 19351 W. Washington St. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$4 for CLC students, alumni and seniors, and are available at the CLC Box Office, by phone at (847) 543-2300 or online at www.clcillinois.edu/tickets.
- **Zurko's Antique Market.** 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, March 11. Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts. 120 and 45. For more information, call (715) 526-9769 or visit www.zurkopromotions.com.
- **Youth Safari 2007.** 6-8 p.m., Thursday, March 15. College of Lake County, Physical Education Center Gymnasium, 19351 W. Washington St. This employment event is aimed at young adults 15-21. For more information, call (847) 543-2059.
- **L.E.A.R.N. 7th Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction.** Noon, Sunday, March 25. The Country Squire, Rts. 120 and 45. Cost is \$30 per person, payable by March 18. All proceeds help rescued Labrador retrievers. For more information, call Lois at (847) 289-7387.
- **2nd Annual Talent Hunt.** 6 p.m., Sunday, March 18. College of Lake County, C Wing Auditorium, 19351 W. Washington St. High school students compete in solo performances of song, dance, drama and instrumental music. Audience members are requested to donate \$5. Children under 10 are free. For more information or an entry form, call David Weatherspoon at (847) 543-2138.
- **CLC Gospel Choir Spring**

Concert. 4 p.m., Sunday, March 18. College of Lake County, James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts, Mainstage Theatre, 19351 W. Washington St. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$4 for CLC students, alumni and seniors, and are available at the CLC Box Office, by phone at (847) 543-2300 or online at www.clcillinois.edu/tickets.

GURNEE

- **Young Children's Clothing, Equipment and Toy Resale.** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 17. Lakeland Evangelical Free Church, 4400 N. Hunt Club Rd. Admission is \$1. Presented by Lake County Mothers of Twins & More Club. For more information, call (866) 248-7670, ext. 1264.
- **Home Office Managers and Entrepreneurs meeting.** 9 a.m., second Wednesdays. First Midwest Bank, 300 N. Hunt Club Rd. Exchange ideas, guest speakers, referrals, share business-owner experiences. Call (847) 367-7118 for details.
- **Network Lake County meeting.** 8-9 a.m., Thursdays. A business networking group meeting in Gurnee. Call Boyce Buckner at (847) 838-0058 to learn more.
- **Lake County Chamber of Commerce networkers group meeting.** 7:30 a.m., first and third Fridays. In-Laws Restaurant, 720 N. Milwaukee Ave. Call (847) 249-3800 for information.
- **Lake County Spinner's Guild meeting.** 1:30-4 p.m., second Sundays. Warren-Newport Public Library. Enjoy the art of fiber spinning and meet fellow spinners. Call Carol at (847) 234-0778 or Chris at (847) 367-2536 to learn more.
- **Viking Park Singers rehearsals.** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays. Viking Park Dance Hall. Interested singers are welcome.
- **Singles (ages 55+) Breakfast Group meeting.** 8:30 a.m., Saturdays. In-Laws Restaurant, 720 Milwaukee Ave. Call Chuck at (847) 362-5458 for details.
- **Heather Ridge Conservation Club meeting.** 7:30 p.m., third Thursdays. Heather Ridge Community Center.

HAINESVILLE

- **Hainesville Village Board meeting.** 7 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays. 100 N. Hainesville Rd. For more information, call (847) 223-2032.
- **Finance Committee meeting.** 6:15 p.m., second Tuesdays. 100 N. Hainesville Rd. For more information, call (847) 223-2032.
- **Public Works/Public Property and Open Spaces Committee meeting.** 6:30 p.m., second

Wednesdays. 100 N. Hainesville Rd. For more information, call (847) 223-2032.

- **Emergency Management Agency meeting.** 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays. 100 N. Hainesville Rd. For more information, call (847) 223-2032.

INGLESIDE

- **Fox Lake/Round Lake Area Rotary meeting.** Noon, Fridays at Za Za's, 69 Washington.
- **Grant Hall Museum.** 1-4 p.m., Sundays. Fox Lake-Grant Township Area Historical Society, 411 Washington St. Admission free, donations accepted. For information, call (847) 587-0544 or mail P.O. Box 224, Ingleside, IL 60041.
- **Lake County Astronomical Society meeting.** 8:30-10 p.m., third Fridays. Volo Bog State Natural Area. Meeting followed by a 9:30 p.m. viewing period. For information, call (815) 344-1294 or visit www.lcas-astronomy.org.

LAKE VILLA

- **Tony Burroughs presentation, "Creating Order Out of Chaos."** 2 p.m., Sunday, March 11. Lake Villa District Library, 1001 E. Grand Ave. This program focuses on how to organize family history documents. Burroughs contributed to "Finding Oprah's Roots." For more information, call (847) 356-7711.
- **Lake Villa Village Board meeting.** 8 p.m., second Wednesdays
- **Lake Villa District Library Board meeting.** 7 p.m., second Mondays. 1001 E. Grand Ave.
- **Lake Villa Township Board meeting.** 7:30 p.m., second Tuesdays. Township offices, 37908 N. Fairfield Rd. Call (847) 356-2383.
- **Weigh to Win meeting.** 7-8 p.m., Tuesdays. Calvary Christian Center, Monaville Rd. Call (847) 356-6181 to learn more.
- **Lake Villa Take Off Pounds Sensibly meeting.** 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays. Church of the Holy Family, 25291 W. Lehman. Call Cathy at (847) 587-7710 or Debbie at (847) 687-5531 for details.
- **MOMS Club of Lake Villa/Lindenhurst meeting.** 9:30 a.m., Mondays. Lake Villa District Library, 1001 Grand Ave. Children welcome. For more information, call Erin Bearss at (847) 546-1545.

LIBERTYVILLE

- **Spring Arts & Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11. Libertyville Sports Complex, corner of Rt. 45 and Peterson Rd. For more information, contact the GLMV Chamber of Commerce at (847) 680-0750 or visit www.glmvchamber.org.

LINDENHURST

- **Lindenhurst Village Board meeting.** 7 p.m., second and fourth Mondays. Village Hall Boardroom. Call (847) 356-8252 for more information.
- **Lindenhurst Park District Board meeting.** 6:30 p.m., second Tuesdays. For more information, call (847) 356-6011 or visit www.lindenhurstparks.org.
- **Lindenhurst Environmental Activity and Education Commission meeting.** 6:30 p.m., second Wednesdays. Village Hall, 2301 E. Sand Lake Rd.
- **Lindenhurst Community Partnership meeting.** 7 p.m., second Wednesdays. Village Hall.
- **Free blood pressure screening.** 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays. Victory Lakes Continued Care Center. Call (847) 356-5900 to learn more.
- **VFW Post 4894 meeting.** 8 p.m., second Wednesdays. Civic Center. Call (847) 356-7482 for details.
- **Lake Villa Township Lions Club board meeting.** 7 p.m., second Tuesdays. State Bank of the Lakes.
- **Lindenhurst/Lakes Area Kiwanis Club meeting.** 7:30-8:30 a.m., first and third Thursdays. Victory Lakes Continuing Care Center. For information, call (847) 356-7912.

McHENRY

- **Tourette Syndrome Assn. of Illinois support group meeting.** 7-8:30 p.m., third Fridays. Elm Street Place Office Complex, lower level meeting room, 5400 W. Elm St. For additional information, call (815) 675-0436.

MILLBURN

- **Lake County Doll Collectors meeting.** 1 p.m., third Saturdays. Millburn Congregational Church, Rt. 45 and Grass Lake Rd. Call (847) 623-2072 for details.
- **Millburn Chapter 570, Order of the Eastern Star meeting.** 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 13. Millburn Masonic Lodge, Rt. 45 by Grass Lake Rd. For more information about membership or charity work, call Clarissa Mellen at (847) 244-3698.

ROUND LAKE

- **Big Brothers, Big Sisters meeting.** 6:30-8 p.m., Mondays. Calvary Presbyterian Church, 510 Cedar Lake Rd. Call (847) 360-0770 for information.
- *To submit an item to the Calendar, e-mail to wjcalendar@weeklyjournals.com, phone (847) 223-8161 or fax (847) 223-8810 at least 14 days before the event.*

Illinois Attorney General offers help in Timberlake dispute

By DANIEL J. PATRICK
dpatrick@nwnewsgroup.com

After more than a week of rumors on whether pop star Justin Timberlake would appear in Round Lake, state Attorney General Lisa Madigan now has something to say.

In a recent public statement, Madigan warned consumers that Timberlake won't be making any reported public

appearances and no one should pay any event organizer who says otherwise.

"If anyone has purchased tickets for this event, and has trouble getting a refund from the promoter or from the establishment, I would encourage them to dispute the charges directly with their credit card companies or contact my office for assistance," Madigan said.

Last week, Joe Piagentini, owner of Sharky's Billiards on Route 134 in Round

Lake, said he was able to book pop music star Justin Timberlake to make an appearance March 14. But it does not look like Round Lake will be graced by Timberlake's presence.

The original plan was to have Timberlake arrive at the bar between midnight and 1 a.m. Wednesday, March 14, after a Tuesday, March 13, concert at Allstate Arena in Rosemont.

During the appearance, he would not

perform, but would sign autographs for 30 minutes and "hang out" until 3:30 a.m. Up to 850 pre-sale tickets for the appearance were set at \$100 each, but no tickets were actually sold.

Piagentini previously told the Lake County Journals he paid \$25,000 to Lake Forest-based promoter, Fred Fleming, to bring the pop icon to Round Lake.

• Visit LakeCountyJournals.com for more on this story.

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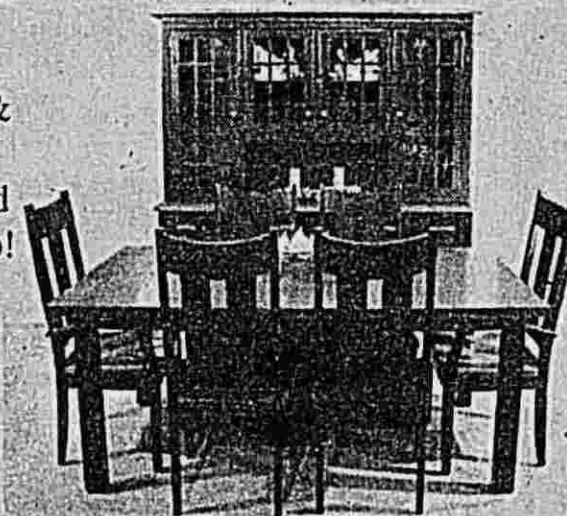
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COMMUNITY

Antioch Upper Grade adopts bullying policy

• BULLIES

Continued from A6

But the middle school has had its own disturbing experiences, particularly with cyberbullying, said Eric Skoog, the district's student assistance program coordinator. Skoog was principal at Antioch Upper Grade for six years.

Much of the cyberbullying Skoog handled involved inappropriate comments posted on MySpace.com pages or instant messaging. And most of the time, he said, sixth-grade girls were the perpetrators.

Much of the nasty comments, and sometimes threats, that were exchanged electronically, often found its way into the classroom, Skoog said.

"This could not be tolerated," Skoog wrote in a recent e-mail.

Skoog told parents that to avoid cyberbullying, the home computer should be kept in an open, shared space where parents could easily monitor.

But if the problem persists, Internet usage should be restricted, Skoog said, or taken away.

"There are plenty of healthy activities your child can enjoy without being exposed to online predators and bullies," Skoog said.

To show Upper Grade's serious approach to bullying, the school adopted a tough policy on the subject, Kallieris said.

Bullying is divided into levels, he said, and punishment is decided based on the severity of the offenses.

Verbal taunting, rude gestures, and shoving often result in a bully getting a lunch or after school detention, Kallieris

said.

Physical harm, property damage, or insults against family, gender, or race are punished with in-school suspension.

Physical threats, extortion, or other forms of bullying that result in a student being "completely afraid to come to school," come with suspension or expulsion, outside counseling and parent meetings, Kallieris said.

Officials hope that their efforts will stick with the sixth-graders as they continue in school.

"If you start to get it into students' heads that it's not OK, they start to internalize it and it becomes the culture of the school," Kallieris said.

"We think it's a very serious issue here," he said. "We're trying to be proactive. It gets old being reactive."

• School Notes

Kindergarten and preschool registration

The Lindenhurst Early Childhood Center is taking registration for its full day private kindergarten program for the 2007-08 school year. The certified program lasts seven hours, and class sizes average one

teacher for 10 children.

The center also is having preschool registration for the next academic year. This program does not include day care. To register a child, call (847) 356-2288 or log onto www.weearethefuture.com.

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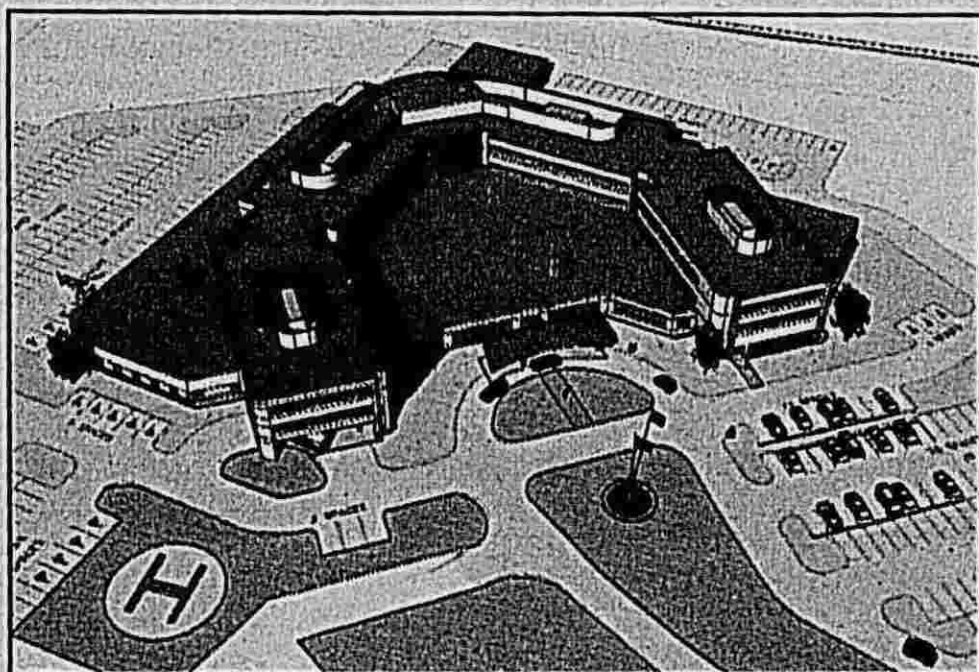


Photo provided

An artist's rendering of the proposed Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst.

Vista, Advocate wait for state approval

By TARA CLIFTON

tclifton@nwnewsgroup.com

WAUKEGAN – It now seems that the race to build hospitals in northwestern Lake County has heated up even more between Vista Health System and Advocate Health Care.

Lindenhurst Illinois Hospital Company LLC, an affiliate of Vista, submitted March 1 its certificate of need application to the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to build a 140-bed hospital at a site adjacent to Vista Surgery Center in Lindenhurst, near the intersection of Grand Avenue and Deep Lake Road.

Advocate spokesman, Tony Mitchell, said that Advocate plans to submit its own certificate of need application as early as March 6. Reports of whether Advocate did submit its application were not available at press time.

"We're responding directly to the community's call for a hospital," Mitchell said.

Vista officials have said that they also are responding to residents' need for a hospital.

That's why Waukegan Mayor Richard Hyde said he supports both hospitals, although he and many other Waukegan officials have formally signed on to Vista's plans.

"We all have to realize that in case of an emergency, seconds count," Hyde said. "For them to come to Waukegan,

you're talking at least 25 minutes, and that's too long."

Hyde said he doesn't see the proposed hospitals as a threat to Waukegan, especially considering that Vista Health System currently consists of two hospitals in the city, and is planning for a total investment of \$70 million in those facilities, according to a press release.

"It's an exciting time for all of us," Hyde said. "This is good for the county."

If approved, the hospital would be known as Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst and would be the first new hospital planned for Lake County in nearly 30 years.

However, Advocate also wants to claim that title.

Advocate Health Care, which consists of several hospitals in the Chicago area, is in direct competition with Vista. It announced plans in January for a 144-bed, 300-square-foot hospital that officials hope will be approved to be built in Round Lake, less than 10 miles from the proposed Vista site.

Vista submitted its letter of intent before Advocate, so was able to present its certificate earlier.

But once both certificates of need are in health board hands, a lengthy and complicated process ensues, said Melaney Arnold, spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

See VISTA, page A20

Campaign chat centers on cash

Grassroots group advocates school funding reform

By EMILY PREVITI

epreviti@nwnewsgroup.com

GURNEE – It was not yet 11 a.m. when Ilya Sheyman dug into a chunk of cake laden with frosting in patriotic hues.

Sheyman is an organizer for A+ Illinois, a lobbying group that advocates reforms to school funding and tax structure in Illinois.

The coalition's campaign began on March 1 and attracted roughly 50 reporters, residents and teachers from Lake and Cook counties at the Lake County Federation of Teachers building, 248 Ambrogio Drive.

In Illinois, state funds comprise, on average, 36 percent of public schools' total revenue, Sheyman explained. Schools in all states except Mississippi run on revenues that contain a higher proportion of state sup-

port, Sheyman said.

That fact shocked Daniel Biss, a professor of geometry at the University of Chicago. Biss, of Evanston, attended the forum because the perceived funding flubs also affect colleges and universities.

"We've been watching applicants and, frankly, we're not getting a lot from Mississippi," Biss said. "It's astonishing to me that we're in the same [public school funding] territory because we have the money to do it, and they don't."

Scott Goldstein, vice president of policy and planning for the Metropolitan Planning Council, said the council combined with groups, including Voices for Illinois Children, to form A+ Illinois three years ago.

Specifically, A+ advocates increased state-level funding of public schools and property tax relief through increasing income and corporate taxes, as well as expanding state sales tax and implementing fees for fossil fuel use.

The presentation in Gurnee was one of four statewide

By the numbers

- \$17,704 operational costs for a student at Highland Park High District 113 (\$17,704), more than double the state average \$8,782.

- Six percent of Highland Park students come from low-income families. Zion-Benton Elementary District 6 has the highest proportion (73 percent) of students from such a background. But the lowest individual-student spending happens at Winthrop Harbor Elementary School 1: \$6,553.

**Data from the 2003-04 school year's Illinois Interactive School Report Cards published by the Northern Illinois University in 2005.*

March 1. Through them, A+ hoped to inform the public about its proposal for school funding reform, and to recruit people to join county-level steering committees.

Those groups will pressure legislators to initiate laws reflective of the A+ policy platform.

See EDUCATION, page A15

Balancing act



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

Cynthia Capota, a third-grader at Butterfield School, uses pennies to balance a lever as part of a lesson on simple machines by High Touch-High Tech during an in-school field trip at the Libertyville school.

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Chicago Sears Lawrence & Ashland 773-561-0760

Chicago Sears 6153 S. Western Ave. 773-918-0570

Joliet Sears Louis Joliet Mall 815-577-8332

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Spending of school funds topic of concern with elected officials

• EDUCATION

Continued from A13

Legislative lens

State Sen. Terry Link, D-Waukegan, cited familiarity with A+. But Link declined to share his evaluation of the platform on March 2. He explained he would "sit back and wait" for Gov. Rod Blagojevich's budget address scheduled for March 7.

Link also stressed the importance of school districts' fiscal accountability and acceptance of state direction, should they receive more money from Illinois.

"Any time we give more money to the district, there has to be reform tied to those pieces of legislation," Link said. "Even though they want more money and they're complaining, they still want local control, but they can't have it both ways."

State Rep. Michael Bond, D-Grayslake, has served on the Woodland School District 50 Board of Education for two years. He agreed that schools must answer for the manner in

Lack of state funds to affect students' wallets

Students at the College of Lake County will pay up to \$10 more a credit hour, starting this fall.

After a lengthy discussion Feb. 18, the CLC Board of Trustees approved the increase in tuition and fees. Richard W. Fonté, president of the college, attributed the need to increase rates to chronically limited state funding.

Part of the money will fund \$830,000 in new equipment requested during the past two years by faculty and deans that has gone unfunded thus far.

In-district students will pay \$90 a credit hour, rather than \$80. Out-of-district rates will increase from \$196 to \$201 a credit hour; tuition will rise from \$267 to \$272 a semester for out-of-state students.

which they spend state money, even though he said he has witnessed firsthand narrowing flexibility in resource allocation.

"A lot of people like to beat up No Child Left Behind, but ... it's a good accountability structure," Bond said.

Bond also said he would advocate to increase individual teachers' responsibility for student performance through a merit pay system, under which rising test scores would swell salaries.

Once more funds are avail-

able, A+ would recommend oversight and redirection of its spending by districts. The organization has set fully-funded special education as one of its priorities.

The coalition's Web site, www.aplusillinois.org, lists more details about the reforms, which echo some points of Illinois House Bill 750.

For example, HB-750 and A+ call for the same shift in individual and corporate income tax, and tax breaks for working families (750 defines these as single or married-couple house-

A+ Initiatives

Change	Details	Money raised
• Increased personal income tax	3 percent/5 percent, with credits to working families	\$4.8 billion (net)
• Increased corporate income tax	4.8 percent/8 percent	\$690 million
• Expand sales tax	Include service and entertainment	\$2 billion
• Pollution tax	Fossil fuel fees	\$1.5 billion

holds whose incomes fall below \$47,000).

Local lens

Under the watch of Superintendent Ben Martindale, Gurnee School District 56 has asked taxpayers for more money seven times through referendums on electoral ballots.

Voters have never approved the move.

"If you rely on tax dollars as major source for revenue, you have to ... keep going with what you get, and you have to do it differently," Martindale said. "But if you do it differently, you compromise program offerings you have for the children."

"We're not trying to hide the fact that we need more revenue," Goldstein said. "These costs have been delayed for so long, but that price will only grow higher the longer we wait to fix the problem."

Of Illinois counties, according to Sheyman, Lake County presents the school district with the widest disparities in individual pupil expenditures.

"The unanimity is that

"If you rely on tax dollars as [a] major source for revenue, you have to ... keep going with what you get, and you have to do it differently."

Ben Martindale

A superintendent of Gurnee School District 56

school funding reform is something that's long overdue for attention from the legislature," Martindale said. "Something will have to change in the tax structure, and that can be a real sore point for a lot of people."

A+ argues that school funding reforms have been needed for at least two decades. With that history of alleged inadequacy to untangle, coupled with Blagojevich's promise to not increase taxes, Sheyman, 20, will likely need all of the energy he can get, even from quick fixes like white sugar and flour.

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Our View

State defers power on electricity rates

Throughout 2006, concerns were expressed about impending increases in electricity rates.

The Legislature promised action but did nothing. Now, those rate hikes have taken effect.

ComEd customers have seen an increase of about 22 percent. Downstate residents served by Ameren were supposed to see a 55-percent increase, but some residents are complaining that their bills increased up to 300 percent.

Not surprisingly, many consumers are mad. Last week the Legislature hosted hearings on the issue - as if the steep increases were a big surprise.

Flossmoor Democrat George Scully assured that, "Consumers should be confident that their legislators are taking up this task."

Problem with that statement is, the task should have been taken up by the Legislature last year. Let's recap:

In 1997, the state passed laws to deregulate electricity by 2002. The theory was that there would be competition and consumers would have choices by 2002.

In exchange for deregulation, electricity rates were rolled back and frozen. At the time, Illinois had among the highest electricity rates in the

country. In 2002, there still was no competition for residential customers, so the Legislature extended the freeze until the end of 2006.

Well, 2006 arrived and there still was no competition. Despite that, the Legislature chose to take no action. State politicians, including Gov. Rod Blagojevich, talked a lot, but nothing happened.

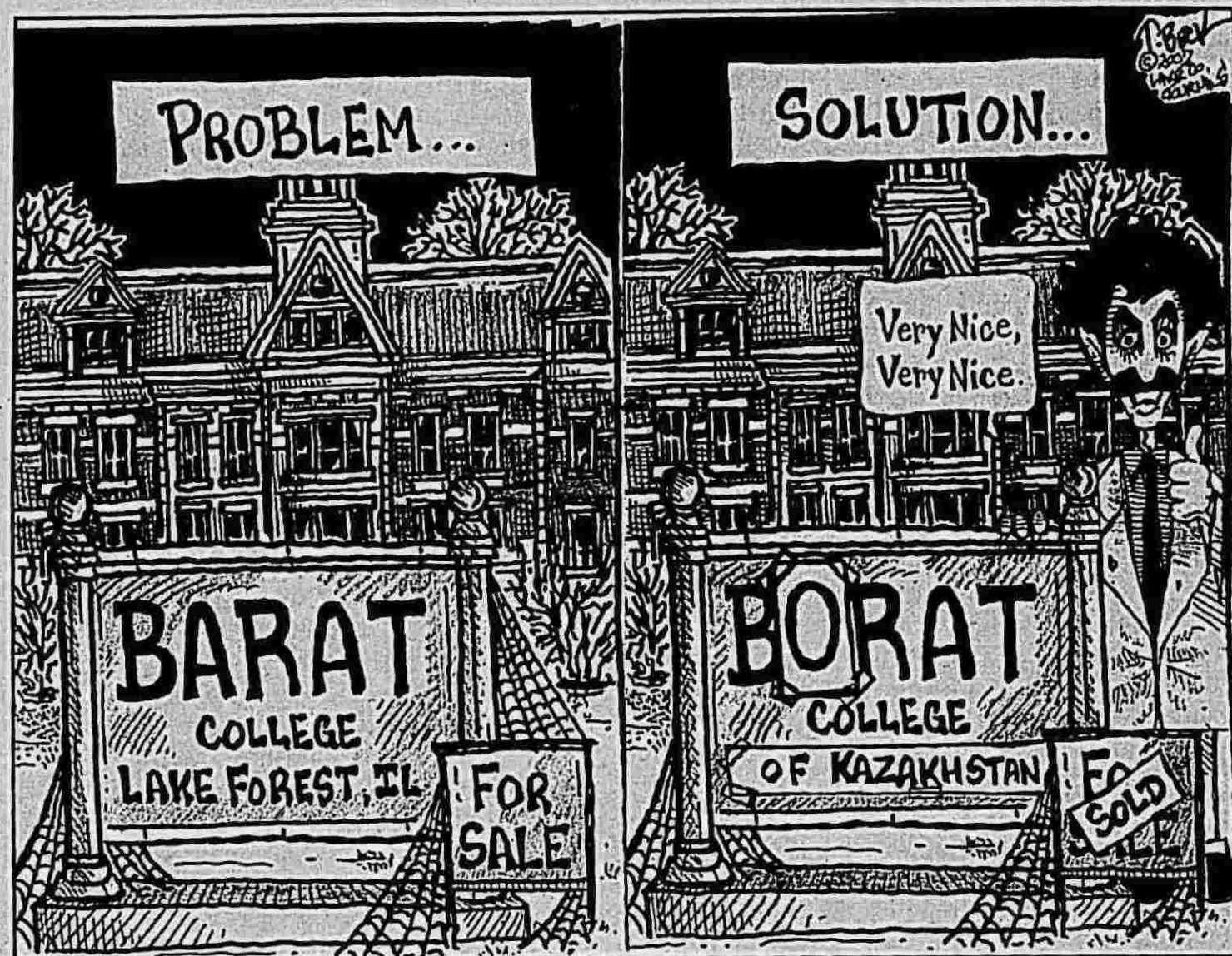
Now don't presume that Illinois residents have been getting a deal since the 1997 rate freeze. In comparing the 2005 average retail price of power in the Midwest, neighboring states such as Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota and Tennessee are lower, and Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio are comparable, according to the Energy Information Administration.

There really is no reason for state legislators to have a hearing on this issue. Consumers needed to be protected and the Legislature chose not to do so.

Instead, Ameren and ComEd were allowed to become deregulated monopolies. Now everyone is shocked that some downstate residents are seeing rates quadruple?

If the Legislature wants to tackle this issue and institute measures to protect consumers - fine.

But the time for talking passed long ago.



Seeing it Through

Governor, Illinois Legislature need to resolve financial crisis

The Legislature's scheduled May 31 adjournment means that the days are running short to work out a bipartisan agreement to solve the state's fiscal dilemma. No matter who does the financial analyses, the state's unfunded debt liabilities are extremely high, possibly as much as \$106 billion.

It is past the time to lay the blame for the fiscal woes. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has won two political campaigns by pointing the finger at his predecessors for leaving him with the fiscal mess.

It is time now for Blagojevich to own up to the money morass. Otherwise, the debt will widen and negatively affect the state's bond rating and its power to borrow. That becomes critical at a time when both road construction and school building needs cry out for capital improvements. Those projects are impossible unless the state approves a

major bonding program.

During the two Blagojevich victories, he made promises not to increase the state's income or sales taxes. He also pledged not to sign bills that would expand gambling. So far, he has honored those commitments. But he is no Houdini, and most political analysts predict that the fiscal troubles are so humongous that he will be forced to break his word, possibly on both taxes and gambling.

Money for health care, education, and plugging the shortfall in pension and medicaid liabilities also must be addressed. Remember, before the

November election, when Sen. James Meeks had threatened to run for governor if Blagojevich didn't provide massive funding for education? Meeks backed off his threat when he was assured that the governor's highest priority would be education funding. Now we're talking real money.

House Republicans, through their leader, State Rep. Tom Cross, have made early soundings as if they want to get involved in the big money issues. He said his caucus would support roads and schools construction financed by a plan to increase gambling slots for current casino operators. In the past, the GOP has opposed expansion of gambling. The plan might fly in the face of the Democrats, who with their majorities seem to favor opening new casinos.



John S. Matijevich

See MATIJEVICH, page A18

Letters to the editor

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Snapshot

Your thoughts on this week's hot topic

"What are your expectations for the upcoming Chicago baseball season?"



"Go Cubs!"

**Brittney
Garcilazo**
Vernon Hills



"I just want the Cubs to win."

Travis Clark
Libertyville



"[The Cubs have] a new coach [this year], so hopefully they'll do good."

**Jamie
Swanson**
Fox Lake



"I like the Cubs, but I'm still boycotting them from last year."

Blair Schoel
Arlington
Heights

Partylines

compiled from staff reports

Freshman senator begins committee work

State Sen. Michael Bond, D-Grayslake, received his committee appointments recently from Senate President Emil Jones Jr., D-Chicago, and has begun working on legislation important to the 31st Legislative District.

Bond began serving as vice-chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and also began work as a member of the Appropriations II Committee, which oversees the budget for the Illinois Department of Transportation among other agencies.

"I feel the appointments I received reflect initiatives I brought to the forefront during my bid for the legislature, and also reflect the senate president's desire to utilize my experience from the private sector to help pass legislation important, not only to my district, but for the state as a whole," Bond said in a release.

Bond, who was elected to his first term in office last November, added that he believes his appointments send "a strong message to the people of northern Lake County that their transportation concerns will be a priority this session."

"Serving in a leadership role on the transportation committee as well as on the corresponding appropriations committee will give me the understanding, perspective and forum I need to address critical transportation needs in northern Lake County," he said.

State Sen. Terry Link, D-Waukegan, agreed that the appointments are significant.

"By serving not only as vice-chairman of the transportation committee, but also as a member of the appropriations committee that oversees the department of transportation, Sen. Bond is positioned to give Lake



County the attention it deserves," Link said in the release.

As a financial director for a Fortune 500 company, Bond said he plans to utilize his expertise as a member of the Pensions & Investments Committee, which also began work recently.

The Senator also will serve on the State Government & Veterans Affairs Committee.

"In the private sector I've focused on strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, forecasting, risk management, valuation and negotiations," Bond said in the release. "I feel this experience will serve me well on these committees. I appreciate the Senate President's confidence in me with these appointments."

Vacancy filled

Sandy Cole's spot on the Lake County Board has been filled.

Terese Douglass, a Grayslake trustee the past eight years, was appointed to the District 11 position on Feb. 27.

Cole, currently an Illinois representative, resigned from the board in January. She had been a board member 10 years.

One of seven candidates, Douglass was recommended for the District 11 position by a five-member county board committee.

Board member Carol Spielman, D-Highland Park, welcomed Douglass to the board.

"I hope we have an opportunity to talk about some of the

issues as they arise," she said.

Douglass will serve the remainder of the District 11 term, which expires November 2008. She will have to resign her position as Grayslake trustee.

District 11 includes parts of Grayslake, Gurnee, Waukegan and unincorporated Lake County.

Slate support

The Lindenhurst Choice Party raised more than \$6,000 at its first campaign fundraiser. Taking place on Feb. 27 at

the Serbian Brothers Hall in Lindenhurst, candidates mingled with guests and supporters, while all enjoyed entertainment from the Lakes Area Community Swing Band.

The Choice Party consists of Susan Lahr for Village Board president, Patty Chybowski for clerk, and Patrick Dunham, Dominic Marturano and Renee Metzelaar for trustees.

Their opponents are Village Board President James Betustak, clerk Donna Bauschke, trustees Carl Norlin and Mary McCarthy, and newcomer Gary Stittgen for trustee. They comprise the Lindenhurst Community Party.

Among those who attended the Choice Party's fundraiser were former State Rep. Robert Churchill, Lindenhurst Village Attorney Paul Phillips, Lake Villa Township Supervisor Dan Venturi and Lake Villa Fire Protection District Trustee Howard "Bud" Scott.

"Residents and business owners came from all over the township," Lahr noted. "It was a perfect example of the kind of congenial community spirit we want to bring back to Lindenhurst."

The Lindenhurst Choice Party's platform and slogan is "Cooperation - Communication - Community." Lahr has stated before that she and her slate plan for more open dialogue between government leaders and residents.

The Lindenhurst Community Party's focus is to continue the progress made under the current administration. Betustak has stated before that he and current trustees have been behind such projects as the Lindenhurst Veteran's Memorial, and future endeavors that include a possible Vista hospital and the Village Green.



Terese Douglass
Lake County
Board District 11
representative

Illinois is seeing red; income tax increase might be the best answer

• MATIJEVICH

Continued from A16

No matter which direction it goes, gambling revenues will touch only the surface of the state's debt.

So, the really big issue of the session is, Where will the state get the really big money

needed to get the treasury out of the red? The sensible talk is that the Illinois Legislature must finally reform education funding by reducing the number of dollars needed from local property taxpayers, and put more reliance on state funding.

Political observers have been saying that taxpayers gen-

erally will support an increase in the state's income tax, if the state at the same time amends the laws to provide substantial reductions of the local property taxes that go toward education.

Of course, this is not an easy sell to elected school representatives who argue that once you reduce local funding, you lose

local control over education.

Will Blagojevich try to keep his pledge against increasing the income and sales taxes by promoting a new revenue source? Much has been said about his proposal to adopt a new tax on gross receipts of Illinois business. If that is attempted, you will see more lobbyists registered than ever in the history of lawmaking in Springfield.

After all, such a tax would affect every conceivable business, including professional business services such as law firms and medical practitioners. They won't take that sitting down, and I'm sure that they will prevail.

The income tax-property tax

trade-off might emerge as the only reasonable solution to the fiscal crisis in Illinois. When you consider that the state had come within a whisker of passing a 4 percent tax instead of the 2.5 percent that was imposed upon individuals, and for 38 years it has been raised by just one-half percentage point, the trade-off might now be the only way to go.

But, that's if there is a reduction in the property tax. That's a must.

It will become a time of the year when it can be said of legislators, "You can run, but you can't hide."

• John Matijevich writes a weekly column for the Lake County Journals.

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— College of Lake County Notes

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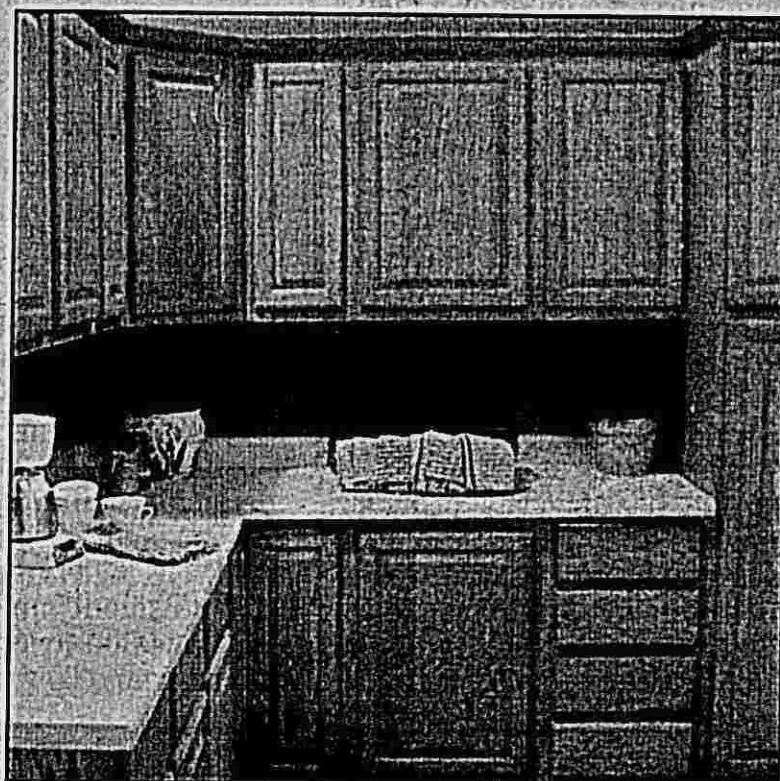
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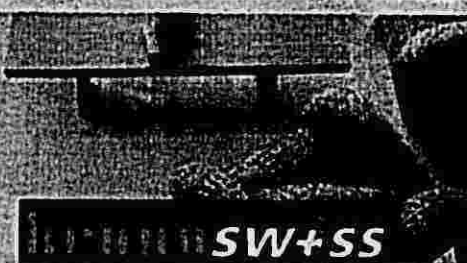
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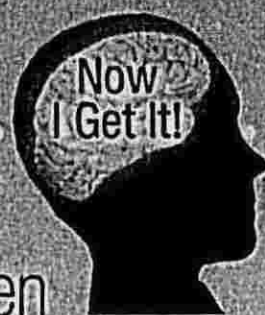
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COUNTY

Residents, officials rally behind Vista

• VISTA

Continued from A13

This process, which can last several months, includes a public comment period.

The Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board will consider many factors for both health systems' proposals, Arnold said. Location, need, population characteristics, financial viability, costs of maintenance and construction, impact upon other facilities and more.

Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst would offer a facility with services including a modern emergency department with 21 beds, comprehensive diagnostic imaging such as CT, MRI and nuclear medicine, cardiac catheterization and surgical services, according to a release.

Plans for the hospital call for 140 beds, including 108 medical/surgical beds, 12 intensive care beds, and 20 obstetrics and gynecology beds.

Subject to the approval of the planning board, Vista officials anticipate that construction of the Lindenhurst hospital would be complete in the summer 2010.

The three-story facility would be about 200,000 square feet and



Photo provided

An artist's rendering of the proposed Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst. Vista Health Services recently submitted its certificate of need for the hospital.

is expected to cost \$99.8 million.

Hundreds of people in Lindenhurst, Antioch, Lake Villa, North Chicago, and other towns have showed approval for Vista's proposal.

"There is a tremendous need for better access to hospital care – particularly in the northern and western parts of Lake County," Lindenhurst Village Board president James Betustak said. "Lake County currently has more than 700,000 residents. The

population is expected to increase between 3 and 6 percent to approximately 800,000 by 2020."

Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst expects to pay more than \$5 million to the community through property/provider taxes in 2007, according to the release.

In addition, the release stated, the facility in Lindenhurst would result in more than 100 construction jobs and almost 650 new permanent jobs to Lake County.

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**KATHLEEN FRANCES
McKEE**Born: Nov. 17,
1943Died: Jan. 31,
2007*Enjoyed working
for the monks
of Benet Lake
Abbey*

Kathleen McKee is remembered and treasured most as a loving sister, mother and grandmother.

Kathy lived a life of service to others. She nurtured underprivileged children as a teacher, bus driver and cook for HeadStart Preschools. She also enjoyed working for the monks of Benet Lake Abbey and the nuns at the convent. She made many friends working at the Piggly Wiggly bakery in Antioch. She became a medical transcriptionist and served hospitals in Illinois, Colorado and California. She also taught courses at the College of Lake County.

She is loved deeply and will be terribly missed by her surviving sons, James Borsch and Samuel McKee; her daughter, Laura (McKee) Spears and her daughter-in-law, Myronie McKee and especially her beloved grandchild-

dren, Kai and Kiera McKee. Her siblings, Mario and Peggy Kowalski, Angel and Larry Sweich, Jack and Jacqueline McGlynn, and Jim and Sue Demopoulos remember and treasure her as their sweet sister "Keke." Her father, Andrew Demopoulos will miss his oldest daughter.

Kathy was given 13 extra years of life through a kidney transplant that enabled her to see her son Samuel's wedding and four beautiful years with her grandchildren. Kathy loved the Lord as a faithful Catholic. She went to rest in Christ while holding her son Samuel's hand, and hearing him say the prayers she taught him as a little boy.

In memory of Kathleen, please donate to the Misericordia home for medically/mentally challenged children, 6300 North Ridge, Chicago IL 60606, and remember to become an organ donor and give the gift of life to others.

DONALD F. ARNOLD

Born: June 22, 1929

Died: Feb. 26, 2007

*Owned Kopy Kat Printing in
Libertyville*

LINDENHURST—Donald F. Arnold,

age 77 of Lindenhurst, died Monday, Feb. 26, 2007 at the Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan. He owned Kopy Kat Printing in Libertyville and served as the Illinois 1-F District Governor from 1989-1990.

Surviving are his wife, Bernice Arnold; six daughters; five sons; 19 grandchildren and his sister-in-law.

Visitation was from 4 p.m. until the time of services at 7 p.m. on March 3 at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Memorial contributions can be made to the Lions of Illinois Foundation or American Diabetes Association.

Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

KAREN M. HERBST

Born: April 16, 1940

Died: Feb. 27, 2007

She loved gardening and cooking

NORTHBROOK—Karen M. Herbst, age 66 of Northbrook, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007 at her home. She was born April 16, 1940 in Kenosha, Wis., the daughter of the late Elmer and Laura (Anderson) Rentner. She had worked as the billing manager for Utilities, Inc in

Northbrook before her retirement in 2000. On Oct. 15, 1960 she married Wayne R. Herbst in Antioch, and he preceded her in death on November 24, 1995.

Survivors include her sons, Jeffrey of Northbrook and David (Georgia) of Victorville, Calif.; six grandchildren and her sister. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Jean.

The funeral was held at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2007 at the Strang Funeral Home of Antioch, with visitation starting at 11 a.m. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery in Antioch. In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make contributions to the American Lung Association or the A.S.P.C.A. in her memory. Please sign her guest-book at www.strangfh.com. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

**SHARON R.
CHRISTOFFERSEN**

Born: Jan. 22, 1942

Died: Feb. 23, 2007

*Was a former employee of Anchor
Storage and U-Haul in Grayslake*

GAGES LAKE—Sharon R.

Christoffersen, age 64 of Gages Lake, died Friday, Feb. 23, 2007 at the Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. She was a former employee of Anchor Storage and U-Haul in Grayslake. Sharon will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Private services were held at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

ELAINE T. ARADO

Born: Oct. 22, 1920

Died: Feb. 28, 2007

*Her interests included gardening and
genealogy*

LAKE VILLA—Elaine T. Arado, age 86, of Lake Villa, passed away at Winchester House in Libertyville, on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2007. She was born in Chicago, the daughter of the late Stephan and Elsie (Werth) Trenker. Elaine worked as a secretary for the Chicago Sun Times and the Daily News in Chicago, and later as a receptionist for Dr. Midgley in Lake Villa. Her interests included garden-

See OBITUARIES, page A22

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OBITUARIES, continued from page A21

ing and genealogy. On Sept. 7, 1946 she married Leonard Arado in Lake Villa. He preceded her in death on Sept. 24, 1977.

She is survived by her son, Rob (Jo) of Lake Villa; her grandson, and her great-granddaughter. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her three sisters.

Visitation was from 9 to 11 a.m. on March 3, at Ringa Funeral Home in Lake Villa. Burial followed at Highland Memorial Park Cemetery in Libertyville. A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. on March 3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Lake Villa. In lieu of flowers, memorials would be appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association, 4709 Golf Rd. Ste. 1015, Skokie, IL 60076. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

ANITA ROSE PYLES

Born: Oct. 7, 1928
Died: Feb. 28, 2007
Born in Germany

ANTIOCH—Anita Rose Pyles, age 79 of Antioch, died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007 at Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. She was born in Germany to Christian and Berta (nee Lentz) Grimm.

Surviving are her six children, Herb (Debbie) Pyles Jr. of Grayslake, Rick (Shawn) Pyles of Sioux City, Iowa, Dorothy (John) Redmond of Round Lake, Donna (Tim) McKeever of Spring Grove, Chris (Terri) Pyles of Antioch, and Wally (Gale) Pyles of Round Lake; her 18 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Her husband Herbert Pyles Sr.; daughter-in-law, Linda Pyles; great-granddaughter; and aforementioned parents all precede her in death.

Friends of the family visited on March 4 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium in Grayslake. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Bede Catholic Church in Ingleside. Interment was held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Catholic Charities of Lake County, 671 W. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, IL 60085. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

DEMETRIA L. SMITH

Born: Aug. 28, 1949
Died: Feb. 12, 2007
She worked as a computer tech

PEORIA—Demetria L. Smith, age 57, of Peoria, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at her home. She was born in

Knoxville County, Tenn., to Leo and Perline Rye Halatek. She worked in the telecommunication field as a computer tech.

Demetria is survived by her children, Albert (Peni) Bonfield of Richmond, Anthony Bonfield of Springfield, Christina (Jerry) May of Round Lake; two brothers; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; an aunt and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother.

A memorial gathering will be held from noon to 2 p.m., on Sunday, March 11, until the time of services at 2 p.m., at the Symonds Lakes Funeral Home & Crematory, 111 W. Belvidere Rd. Grayslake, IL, with Rev. Lisle Kauffman officiating. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

ELEANORE EVELYN RYCZEK

Born: Feb. 24, 1924
Died: Feb. 21, 2007
She volunteered with senior groups

MUNDELEIN—Eleanore Evelyn Ryczek, age 82, of Mundelein, died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007 in Lincolnshire. She was born in North Chicago, and lived in the Lake County area all of her life. After retiring from Fansteel in North Chicago, she volunteered with senior groups. Her loving spirit and kind heart will never be forgotten.

Devoted mother of Rick (Carol) Ryczek of Conyers, Ga., Tom (Tess) Ryczek of Jacksonville, Fla., Ted (Cindy) Ryczek of Algonquin; loving grandmother of six; and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Ted Sr.; and a great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held later in the spring. For further information, call (847) 543-1080. The Symonds Lakes Funeral Home & Crematory handled the arrangements. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

MARY ANN GOECKE (nee HANDRUP)

Born: April 11, 1933
Died: March 2, 2007
Enjoyed cooking and sewing for her family

FOX LAKE—Mary Ann Goecke (nee Handrup), age 73 of Fox Lake, for 15 years, and a former resident of Chicago, died Friday, March 2, 2007 at the Northern Illinois Medical Center in McHenry. She was born on April 11, 1933 in Chicago to Bernhard and Matilda (nee Babel) Handrup and

was united in marriage on April 25, 1953 to Josef Goecke. She lovingly cared for her family, and enjoyed sewing and cooking for them. She was a member of the Wauconda Moose Lodge, College of Regence, the PTSA, the Fox Lake Garden Club, and St. Bede Catholic Church.

She will be greatly missed by her children, Elizabeth Russell of North Carolina, Mary Ann (Donald Wharton) Collado-Wharton of Norridge, Susan (Richard) Hansen of Huntley, Margaret Alford of Ingleside, Joseph Goecke of Waukegan, Stephanie (Matthew Duda) Goecke of Michigan, Barbara Gangware of Wildwood, Peter (Bonnie) Goecke of Round Lake, John (Laura) Goecke of Ingleside, Henry (Michelle) Goecke of Michigan; many grandchildren, cousins, nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and by one sister, Sr. Bemarda.

Visitation was from 3 to 9 p.m. on March 5, at the K.K. Hamsher Funeral Home in Fox Lake. Leaving the funeral chapel at 9:15 a.m., March 5, for a 10 a.m. Catholic funeral Mass at St. Bede Church in Ingleside. Burial followed at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

IVA RUTH HARRIS

Born: Jan. 1, 1919
Died: March 3, 2007
Was a walker at the Original Outlet Mall

BRISTOL, WIS.—Iva Ruth Harris, age 88 of Bristol, Wis., died surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at Grande Prairie Health and Rehab Center in Pleasant Prairie, Wis. She was born January 1, 1919 in Waukegan, the daughter of the late LeRoy and Iva Ruth (Allen) Webb. Iva enjoyed dancing, crocheting, camping, and had a heartfelt love for her family. On Aug. 24, 1940 she married Earle F. Harris in Wadsworth.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Earle; her children, Charlene (Halden "Shorty") Myers of Bristol, Wis. and Gary (Nadine) Harris of Kenosha, Wis.; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; and her brother.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m., March 9, at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, in Bristol Twsp, Wis. Interment followed in Hickory Union Cemetery in Newport Township. Friends called at the Strang Funeral Home in Antioch, from 4 to 8 p.m., March 8, and at 10 a.m., March 9 at the church. The family would like to thank the staff at Aurora Medical Center, the staff at Grand Prairie, and Dr. A. J. Capelli for all their

loving care and concern shown to the family. In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make contributions to the church in her memory. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

SHARON M. GRIFFITH

Born: May 30, 1952
Died: Feb. 12, 2007
Employed as a nurse at Okner Cardiology Group

VERNON HILLS—Sharon M. Griffith, R.N., age 54, a former resident of Vernon Hills, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007 at the Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y., following a courageous battle with lung cancer. She was born May 30, 1952 in Westbury, NY and was a registered nurse for Putnam Hospital Center in New York. She moved to Vernon Hills and worked as a full time nurse at Okner Cardiology Group, as well as for Dr. Salmon Goldberg on weekends.

Surviving are her father, William Griffith; three brothers; and two sisters. She was preceded in death by her mother, Sheila.

A memorial service was held at 7 p.m. on March 7 at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Donations in Sharon's memory can be sent to, Friends of Karen, Inc. 118 Titicus Rd., P.O. Box 190, Purdys, NY 10578. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

RITA E. KAVANAUGH

Born: Jan. 26, 1921
Died: March 3, 2007
Loved to play Bingo and Scrabble

LAKE VILLA—Rita E. Kavanaugh, age 86, of Lake Villa, died Saturday, March 3, 2007 at Winchester House in Libertyville.

She was born in Chicago to Arthur and Lorraine (Seitz) Parker. She worked as a telephone operator at Illinois Bell for 35 years at the Libertyville station.

Survivors include her children, Cathy (Tom) Donnelly of Fort Myers, Fla., Jim (Karen) Sazama of Chicago, Dennis (Mary Ann) Sazama of Ocala, Fla., Patricia (Mark) Schulz of Shawno, Wis., and Marion (Mark) Gorsuch of Fox Lake; 14 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and a sister. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Kavanaugh; her parents; and two brothers.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 510 N. Cedar Lake Rd., in Round Lake. The Rev. Lisle Kauffman will officiate. Interment will be private. Arrangements were handled by the

Justen's Round Lake Funeral Home, 222 N. Rosedale Court (at Cedar Lake Road), Round Lake, IL 60073. Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

CAROL JEAN MACEY

Died: Feb. 24, 2007
She loved books and flowers

DUNCANVILLE, ALA.—Carol J. Macey, age 58 of Duncanville, Ala., formerly of Round Lake Beach, died Feb. 24, 2007 at home. Graveside services were held Monday, Feb. 27, 2007 at Tuscaloosa Memorial Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by Mary Jane and Michael Macey, Helen Bailey and Eugene Macey.

Survivors include her son, Shawn Krueger; sisters, Diane (Danny) Smith, Cynthia Macey and Nancy Macey; brothers, Robert Macey, Danny (Debbie) Macey and Scott (Chrystal) Macey; grandchildren Shawn and Adam Krueger.

Carol was a courageous person, worked hard, loved her family and friends. Carol was loved by all who she touched in her life. She loved her books and flowers. She was aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to those who reached out to Carol during her illness.

Please sign the Guest Book at www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

DAVID LOUIS BREAN

Born: Nov. 8, 1943
Died: Feb. 20, 2007
Was an avid golfer, fisherman and gardener

WAUKEGAN—David Louis Brean, age 63 of Waukegan, died Feb. 20, 2007 at his home after a long battle with cancer. Dave was a hairdresser in Lake Forest for 42 years.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Kay Brean (nee Kesselring); his son, David E. (Karen) Brean of Apple Valley, Minn.; a grandson; granddaughter; two sisters and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Lottie (nee Lewandowski) Brean; and a brother.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m., March 3 at St. Patrick Church in Wadsworth. Interment was in Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dave's memory may be made to any of the following charities: Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center, 2050 Claire Ct., Glenview, IL 60025; Marytown, 1600 W. Park Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048; or American Cancer Society, 100 Tri-State

Tollway, Lincolnshire, IL 60069.
Please sign the Guest Book at
www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

JOSEPHINE E. FIORE

Born: Aug. 8, 1912
Died: March 4, 2007
Was a retired cosmetician

VERNON HILLS—Josephine E. Fiore, age 94 of Vernon Hills, formerly of Libertyville, died Sunday, March 4, 2007 at her home. She had been a member of St. Joseph Church in Libertyville.

She is survived by her daughters, Claudia Fiore and Catherine (Julius) Simmons; and five grandchildren.

The visitation was from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. on March 7 at McMurrough Funeral Home in Libertyville. A funeral Mass followed at 10 a.m. on March 7, at St. Joseph Church in Libertyville. Interment was in Mount

Carmel Cemetery in Hillside. Please sign the Guest Book at
www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

RITA R. BECKER (nee PALAZZO)

Born: March 23, 1915
Died: Feb. 26, 2007
Was a member of Loyal Order of the Moose

CHICAGO—Rita R. Becker (nee Palazzo), age 91 of Chicago, died Monday, Feb. 27, 2007 in Long Grove. She was a member of Loyal Order of the Moose.

Rita is survived by her children, Karen Becker-Mack, Robert (Marnie) Becker and Linda Nelson; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles W., whom she married Feb. 17, 1946; and two brothers.

A memorial Mass was celebrated

at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, at St. Francis de Sales Church in Lake Zurich. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, memorials will be appreciated for the Moose Charities, 155 S.

International Dr., Mooseheart, IL 60539, Attn: IMO Rita R. Becker. Arrangements were made by Ahlgrim Family Funeral Home in Lake Zurich. Please sign the Guest Book at
www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

MARY SOWA (nee WOLOWICZ)

Born: March 17, 1917
Died: March 4, 2007
Was employed at National Press

WAUKEGAN—Mary Sowa (nee Wolowicz), age 89, of Waukegan and North Chicago, died March 4, 2007 at Victory Lakes Nursing Home. She would have celebrated her 90th birthday on March 17.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia (Charles) Tanner of Antioch; one sister; three grandchildren; three great-grandsons; and many other relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her husband, Victor in 1994; a great-grandson; five brothers and her parents, Stanley and Sophie Wolowicz.

Visitation was from 10 to 11 a.m.,

March 7 at the Marsh Funeral Home in Gurnee. The funeral was held at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment was at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville. Please sign the Guest Book at
www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

ALPHONSE J. 'AL' SWIRSKI

Born: Sept. 30, 1919
Died: March 5, 2007

He owned and operated Al's Superette in North Chicago



NORTH CHICAGO—Alphonse J. "Al" Swirski, age 87 of North Chicago, died Monday, March 5, 2007. He was a veteran of WWII having served in the U.S. Army. He married Stephanie Killian on Oct. 5, 1940. Al enjoyed fishing and golfing.

Survivors include a son, Daniel Swirski of Bristol, Wis. and one daughter, Catherine (Stanley) Kudra of Lindenhurst and one granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his wife, Stephanie on Feb. 1, 2006.

Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on March 8 at 10 a.m. at Queen of Peace Church. Interment

followed at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville. Friends called at the Salata Funeral Chapel in North Chicago from 4 to 7 p.m., on March 7. Donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Please sign the Guest Book at
www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

MONTE C. SAGER

Born: Aug. 2, 1925
Died: March 4, 2007
Served with the U.S. Navy during WWII



BEACH PARK—Monte C. Sager, age 81 of Beach Park, died on Sunday, March 4, 2007 at Arbor View Nursing Home in Zion. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Survivors include his sister, Dolores (Howard) Luckritz of Beach Park; nieces; nephew; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Monte C. Sager and mother, Marie Sager.

Funeral services and interment were private for the family. Please sign the Guest Book at
www.LakeCountyJournals.com/obits

Recent Deaths

FLORENCE IONA BROWN, 102 of Antioch, Feb. 20, 2007. Arr: Strang funeral Home of Antioch

ROBERT B. DALE, 58 of Vernon Hills, Feb. 19, 2007. Arr: Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville

ELIZABETH (BETTY) SAUBER, 88 of Grayslake, Feb. 20, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium in Grayslake

IDA HANNA KONTER, 91 of Lake Villa, Feb. 15, 2007. Arr: Ringa Funeral Home of Lake Villa

MERLOE O. SULAK, 87 of Lindenhurst, Feb. 20, 2007 Arr: Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium in Grayslake

GEORGE RICHARD COOK, 65 of Waukegan, Feb. 18, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium in Grayslake

BEN H. POE, 95 of Vernon Hills, Feb. 20, 2007. Arr: Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville

WILLIAM KEULMAN JR., 92 of Antioch, Feb. 21, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Home of Antioch

THOMAS JAMES 'BIG TOM' FARELLA, 71 of Libertyville, Feb. 21, 2007. Arr: Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville

THORA C. HALBERT, 87 of Lake Villa, Feb. 21, 2007. Arr: Ringa Funeral Home in Lake villa

FRANK A. 'DUTCH' THODE, 71 of

Wildwood, Feb. 22, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Home of Antioch

RUTH R. ROPPELT, 90 of Libertyville, Feb. 23, 2007. Arr: Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville

DONALD R. KIMMELL, 57 of Antioch, Feb. 25, 2007. Arr: Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville

NIKKOLE A. TAYLOR, 18 of Salem, Wis., Feb. 24, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Home of Antioch

ZACHARY K. TAYLOR, 8 of Antioch, Feb. 24, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Home of Antioch

BRANDY A. TAYLOR, 36 of Salem, Wis., Feb. 24, 2007. Arr: Strang Funeral Home of Antioch

FLORENCE E. BUTZOW, 90 of Lake Zurich, Feb. 24, 2007. Arr: Ahlgrim Family Funeral Home in Lake Zurich

GERALDINE M. MURRAY (Nee KARMELE), 80 of Grayslake, Feb. 20, 2007. Arr: Kisselburg-Wauconda Funeral Home

KIRBY J. BREWSTER, 46 of Mundelein, Feb. 19, 2007. Kristan Funeral Home PC in Mundelein

JASPER 'BUTCH' RICCHIO, 48 of Round Lake Park, Feb. 19, 2007. Arr: Kristan Funeral Home PC in Mundelein

THERESE H. JANIS (Janiszewski), 94 of Waukegan, Feb. 24, 2007. Arr: Marsh Funeral Home of Gurnee

To submit an obituary, please call Nancy Thielsen at (847) 223-8161, ext. 143, or e-mail wjobs@weeklyjournals.com. Obituaries must be received by noon on Tuesday.

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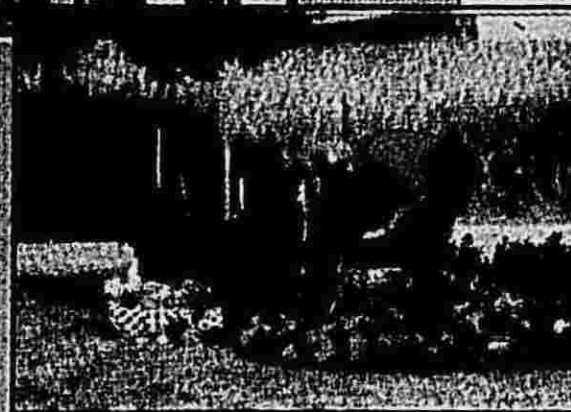
Joel Crabtree, Admissions Dir.
Hillcrest Nursing Center
1740 N. Circuit Drive
Round Lake Beach, IL 60073

Dear Joel,

I wanted to take just a moment and say thank you for always giving such good care to your residents. I am frequently told by family members how happy they are in placing their loved one at Hillcrest and I see the compassion and caring nature of your staff each time I visit your facility. You have a positive atmosphere where residents are encouraged to be as independent as possible and families are always welcomed with open arms. Your residents are never just a room number, but more like family and I believe everyone that visits Hillcrest can see how much you truly care for our seniors. The staff at your facility is some of the most dedicated individuals and I am very proud to be a physician at Hillcrest Nursing Center.

Respectfully Yours,

Nina Neyman
Nina Neyman M.D.

**Bob Powers**

Lake County Board #16
1616 Melrose Ave.
Round Lake Beach, IL 60073

Dear Joel,

As a Lake County Board Member, I have the opportunity to see and deal with many health facilities and nursing homes. I would like to tell everyone that Hillcrest Nursing Center is one of the best run and most pleasant to visit. The staff always welcomes you and the residents are always enthusiastic about the numerous events that are offered to them.

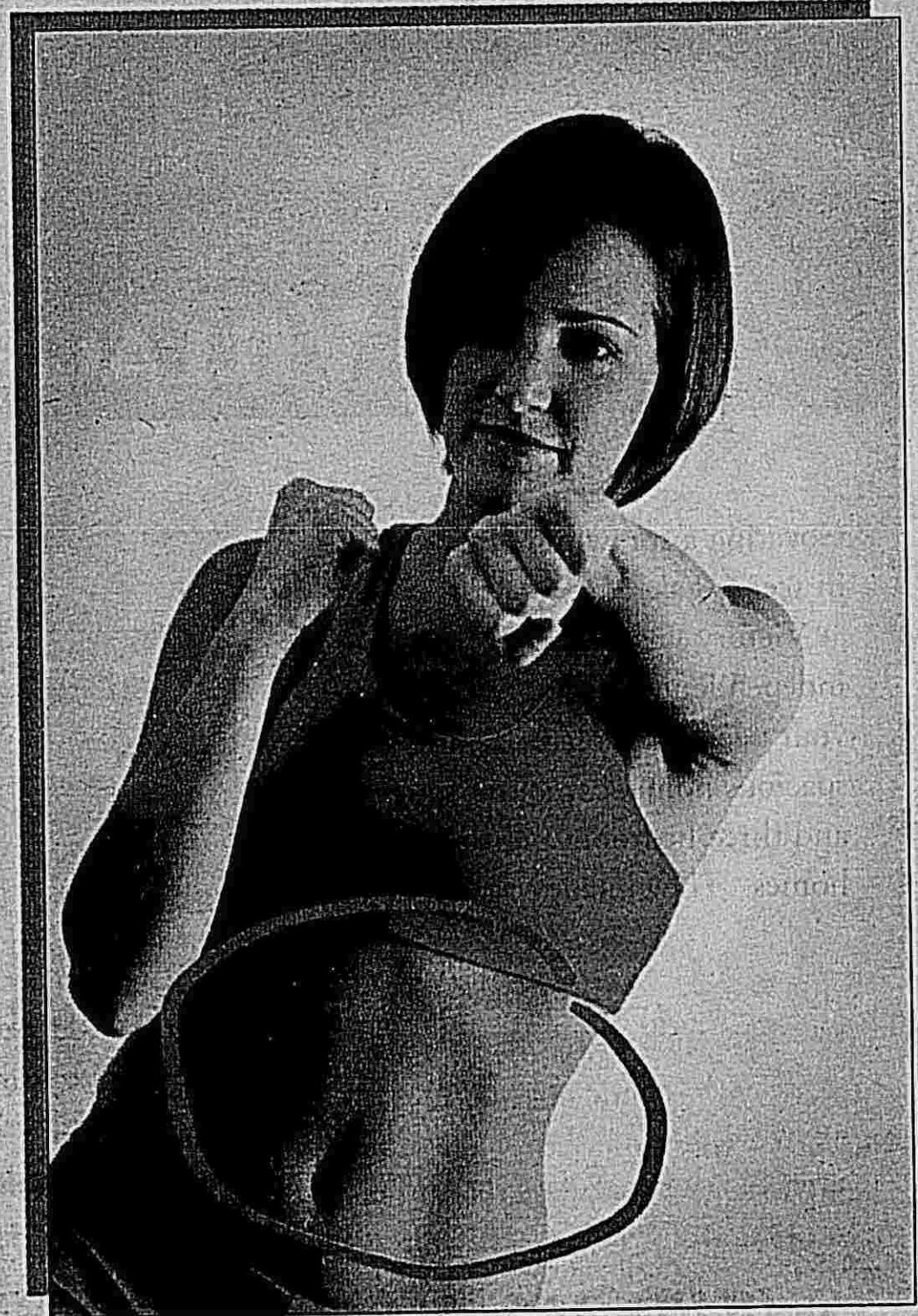
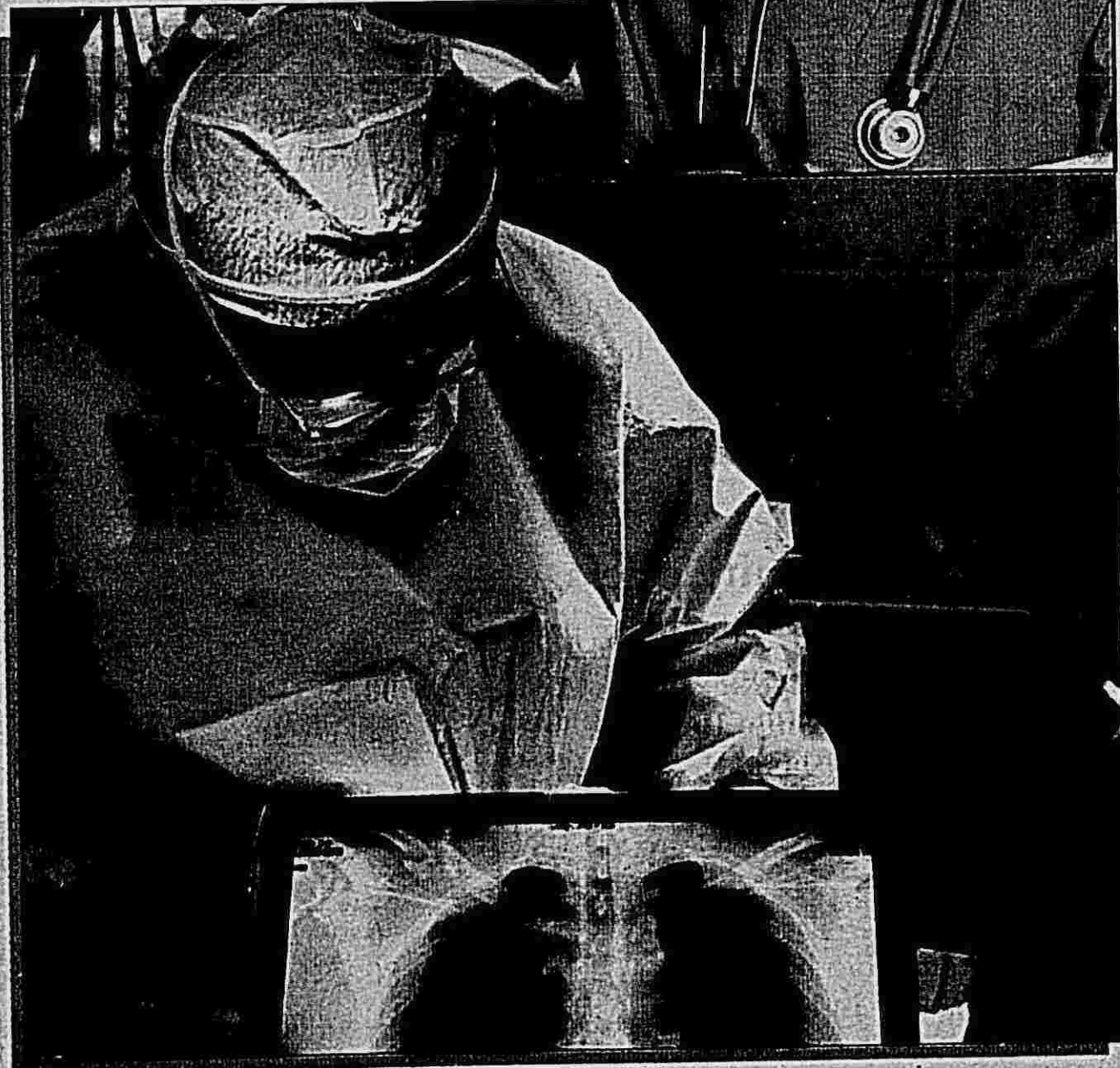
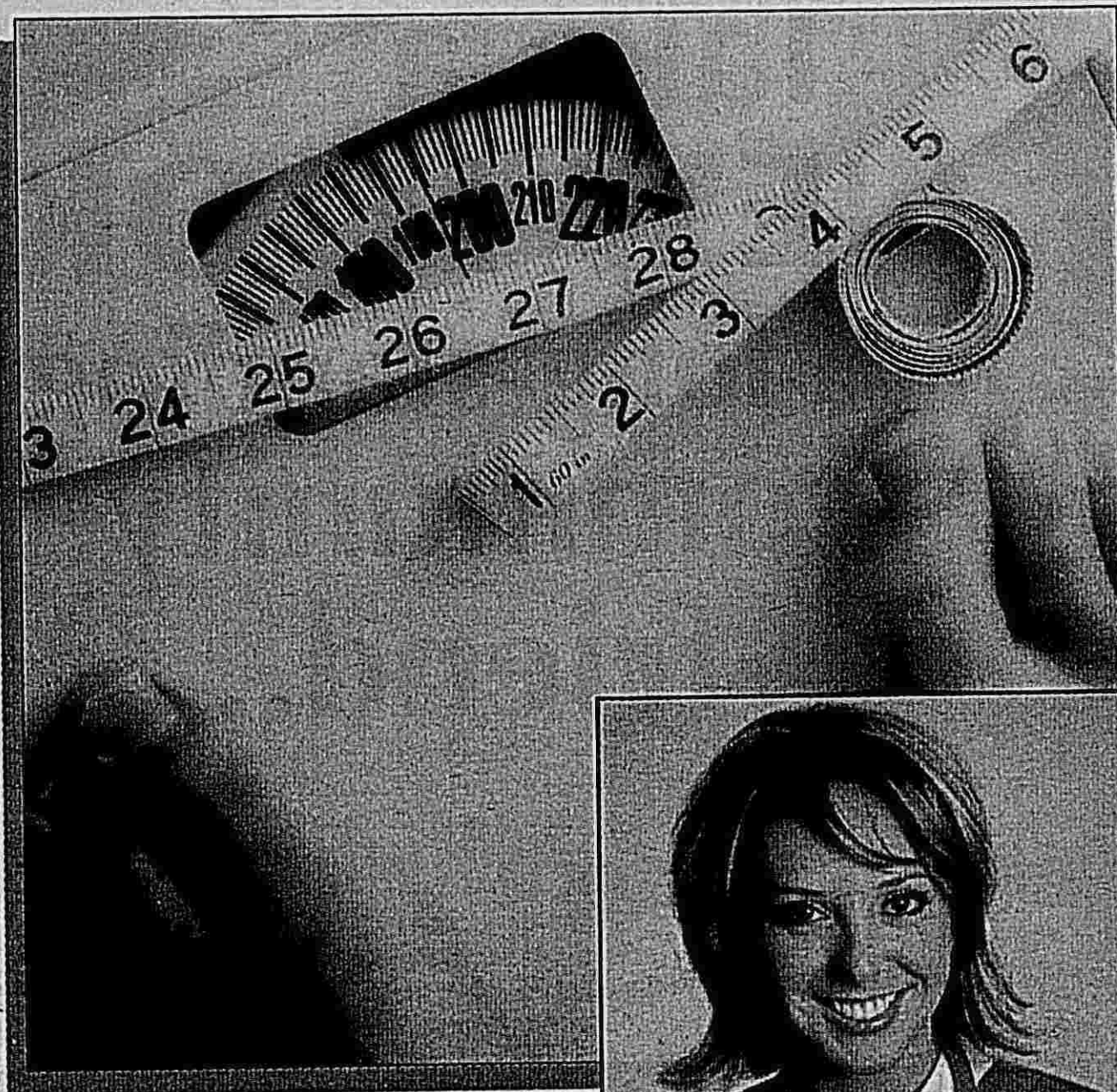
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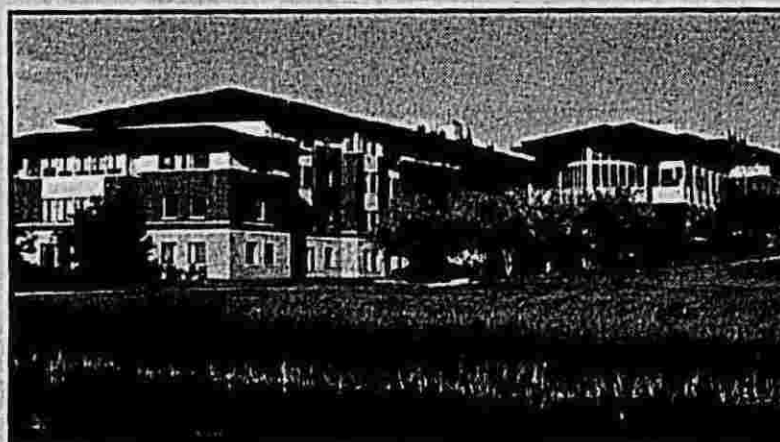


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at Victory Lakes



The Village at Victory Lakes offers maintenance-free living

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"For seniors looking for a spacious home, we have beautiful two- and three-bedroom prairie-style garden homes that feature private patios and attached garages," said Mary Riggs, executive director for The Village at Victory Lakes. "Our roomy one- and two-bedroom independent living apartments feature a full kitchen and individual climate control. Also, our residents enjoy full-course meals in our elegant dining room."

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Looking to further the mission and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago to provide high quality senior services, Franciscan Communities acquired The Village at Victory Lakes last summer.

Franciscan Communities, which is sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago and is a division of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation, currently operates 16 senior living communities in Indiana, Kentucky, Texas, Ohio and Illinois. Franciscan Communities also provides home and community-based health services in Indiana and a shelter for

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For more information, please call (847) 356-4666.



The Village at Victory Lakes in Lindenhurst has a beautiful scenery.

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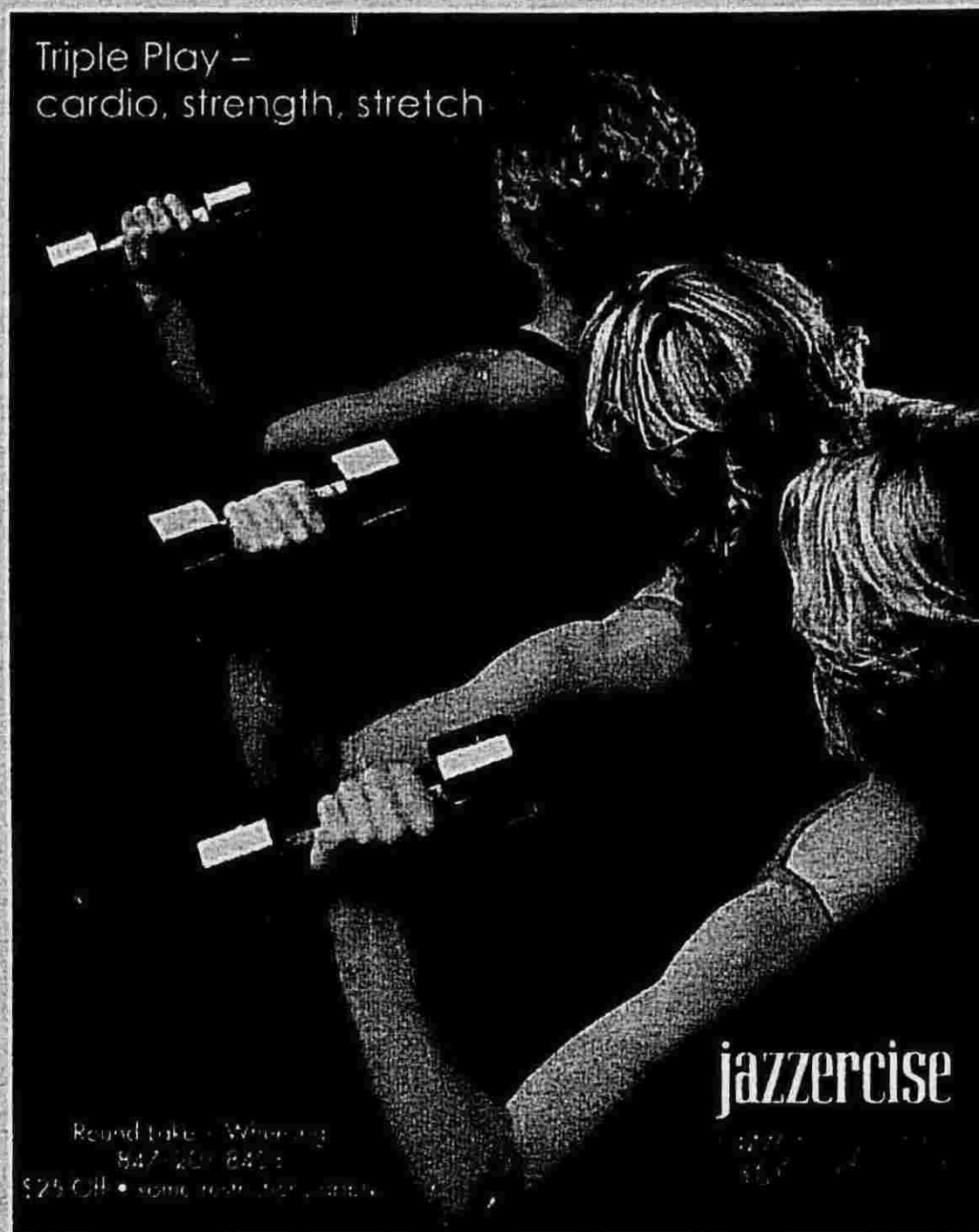
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Now celebrating its 37th year, Jazzercise, created by Judi Sheppard Missett, is the world's leading dance-fitness program. With more than 6,300 instructors teaching 20,000 classes weekly worldwide, the comprehensive program, designed to en-

hance cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility has helped millions of people of all ages and fitness levels reap the benefits of exercise and improve well-being. Lait-Zable has been teaching for over 18 years and currently offers classes in Round Lake and Wheeling.

Classes meet in Round Lake on Tues/Thurs at 6:45 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Classes meet in Wheeling on Mon/Wed at 6:30 p.m., Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. For more information on these Jazzercise classes contact Lait-Zable at 847/201-8453. For worldwide class information, go to jazzercise.com or call 1(800) FIT-IS-IT.



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If you are 55 years or older, Lilac Apartments in Fox Lake is for you. "It is a secure environment where seniors have the opportunity to live independently and easily socialize with their peers," Explained

Brandi Pletcher, Property Manager.

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All 105 units are handicap accessible. Seniors have a choice of spacious one and two bedroom styles. Common areas feature two large lounges, each with a fireplace.

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Bring more to the table with nutrient-rich foods

For most people, healthy eating means counting calories and cutting favorite foods from their diet. A more positive way of looking at healthy eating is to focus on the beneficial nutrients in foods and sidestep the natural tendency to label foods "good" or "bad" based on fat or calorie content.

"Positive attitudes about food, ones that take into account personal tastes and enjoyment, will encourage sensible eating patterns that can be maintained long term," said Andrea Garen, registered dietitian with Dairy Council of California. "Feeling good about food and activity choices is the best strategy for maintaining a healthy weight and lifelong good health."

Nutrients, such as vitamins A, B, C, D and E, calcium, fiber, iron, potassium and protein, are needed at all ages to promote healthy growth, fuel activity and prevent chronic diseases.

"Nutrient-rich" foods have higher levels of vitamins and minerals per calorie, so they bring more to the table than other foods. For instance, despite the fat content of cheese, the calcium and protein make it a nutrient-rich choice. Using nutrient content as a measure of healthy eating, foods that taste good can be good for you, too!

Make the most of your calories by adding low-fat and fat-free dairy, whole grains, fruits, vegetables and lean meats, beans and nuts to your diet. Patterns of choices that include these foods can become the foundation of your meals and snacks each day.

"With this approach, no foods have to be off limits," said Garen. "As your calorie intake and activity level allow, even 'extras' like a slice of birthday cake or some chips with salsa at a party can be included in a healthy, nutrient-rich diet."

Still think that healthy eating means blah but balanced meals? Consider the tips below to achieve drab-to-fab meal makeovers worthy of any prime-time reality show.

DRAB—Broiled skinless chicken breast, steamed broccoli and pears

ADD—Low-fat plain yogurt, ranch dressing mix, whole-grain pasta, light Italian dressing, ginger and almond extract

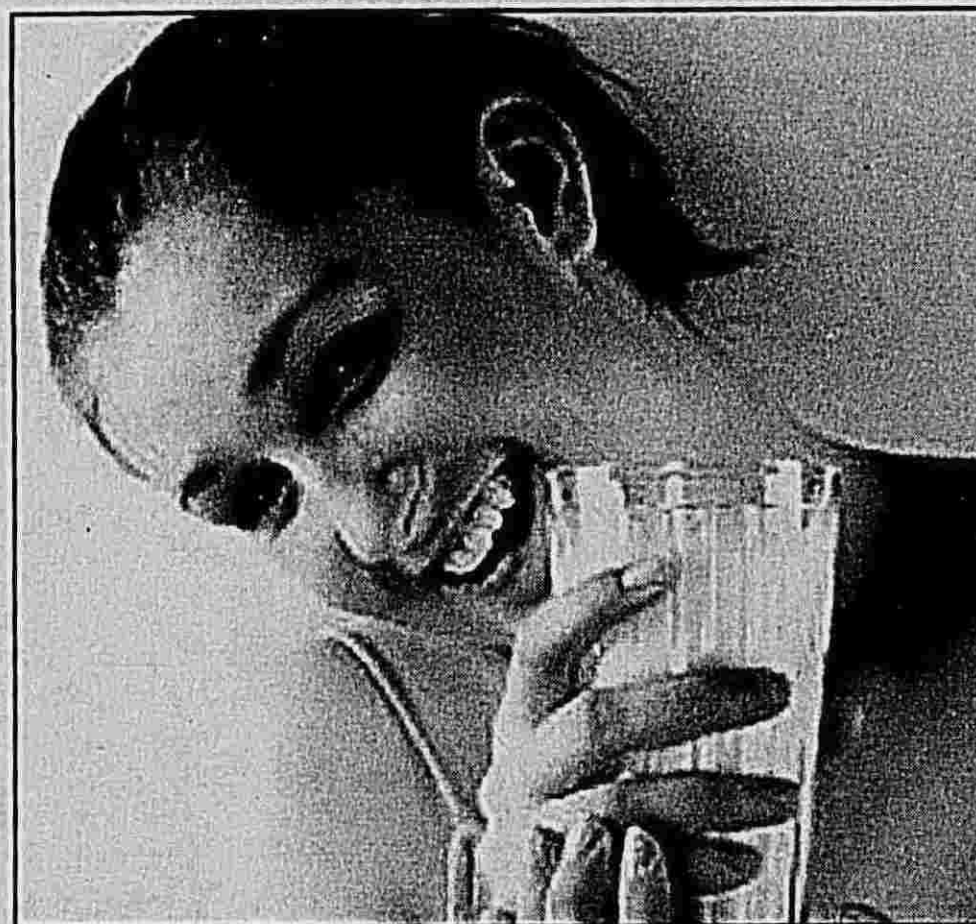
FAB—Zesty Ranch Chicken, Broccoli Pasta Salad and Ginger Almond Pears

This meal makeover adds extra calcium, fiber, vitamins A, B, C and K, iron AND magnesium!

DRAB—Pork tenderloin, green beans and steamed rice

ADD—Ginger, garlic, chicken broth, soy sauce and cashews

FAB—Sensational Stir-Fry
This meal makeover adds extra protein, vitamins D, E and K, phosphorus and anti-oxidants.



Don't count calories to lose weight; make calories count for you.

Finish with a glass of low-fat milk and you have a complete and delicious meal!

For full recipes and preparation information for the meal

makeovers, visit Meals Matter, www.mealsmatter.org, a free, non-commercial meal-planning and nutrition website sponsored by Dairy Council of California.

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Also, see page 8 of this section for a Curves near you.



Combat computer-related eye issues

Computers have become an integral part of daily life. They're used at work, when shopping, at school, and often for recreational purposes. While computer usage certainly has its advantages, prolonged or constant use of computers can lead to certain problems, most notably eye strain and fatigue.

There are many computer tasks that are known offenders in regard to visual discomfort. These include intense games and graphics, tasks with few breaks from the screen, detailed tasks such as desktop publishing or computer assisted design (CAD), and work that requires frequent changes from looking at the screen to hard copy, such as with data entry.

What causes many of these vision problems is a reduced rate of blinking when engaged in computer use. Normally, a person blinks on average 12 to 15 times per minute. When using a computer, that number is significantly reduced. The end result is dry eyes, fatigue and strain. In fact, dry eyes, eye strain, and blurring are the common complaints eye doctors hear from frequent computer



Prolonged computer use can contribute to dry eyes and fatigue, among other conditions.

users. These complaints are often associated with headaches and neck and arm discomfort.

- Place the monitor farther away, since eye strain is more pronounced when doing tasks close up. The screen should be no closer than 18 inches from the user. Many doctors say that 24 to 30 inches from the face is ideal.

- Reduce glare by adjusting the monitor contrast so that the screen is less bright. There are also specially designed screen filters that may help.

Meet Dr. Manuel Rodriguez

Meet Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, shown with his wife, Joy. Dr. Rodriguez is part of a 16-year Wauconda tradition of dental comfort and care. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois Dental School and has dedicated his professional career to providing you with the best that dentistry has to offer. He is continually educating himself and his staff on the newest dental techniques and advances in order to offer you state-of-the-art, personalized, comfortable and antiseptic dental care.

Dr. Rodriguez has taken numerous continuing education courses, including Implant Dentistry, Crown and Bridge Restoration and Cosmetic Dentistry. He is a member of institutions such as the



American Dental Association, Illinois State Dental Society, Chicago Dental Society, Academy of Laser Dentistry and the Academy of General Dentistry.

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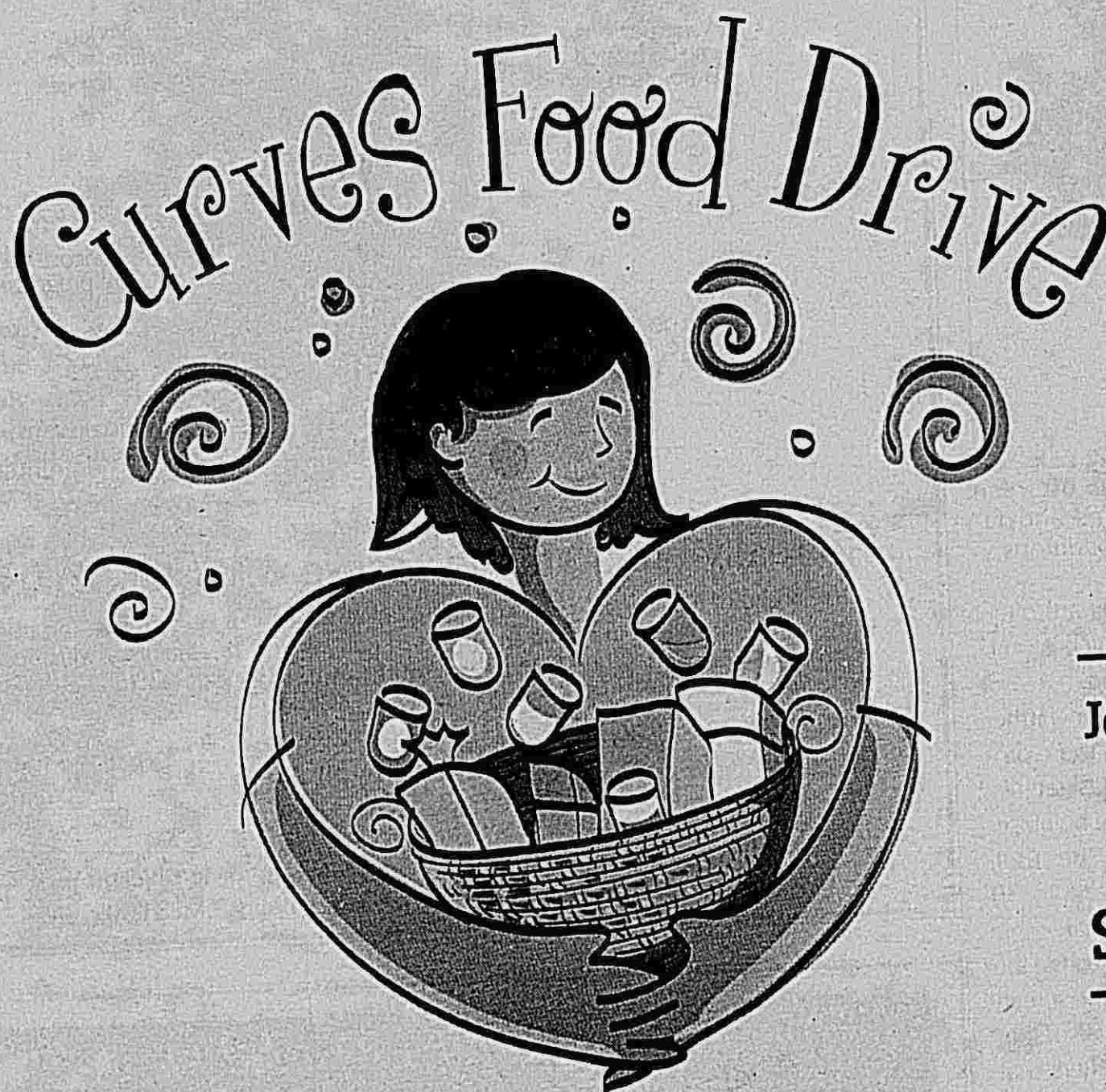
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LAKEVIEW

Friday
March 9, 2007

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● Check it out

Things are not always what they seem. Check out the new "Imposters!" exhibit at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. The exhibit will be on display March 10 through Sept. 10.

Page A26

Don't miss the Fourth Annual Lake County Film Festival, which will take place through March 12 at College of Lake County in Grayslake. The event will feature more than 100 films.

Page A27

The Broadway hit "Grease" will be performed through April 22 at Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire.

Page A34

Animation meltdown

Movie critic Jeffrey Westhoff says "300," an action/adventure film, fails in its attempt to look like a video game brought to life.

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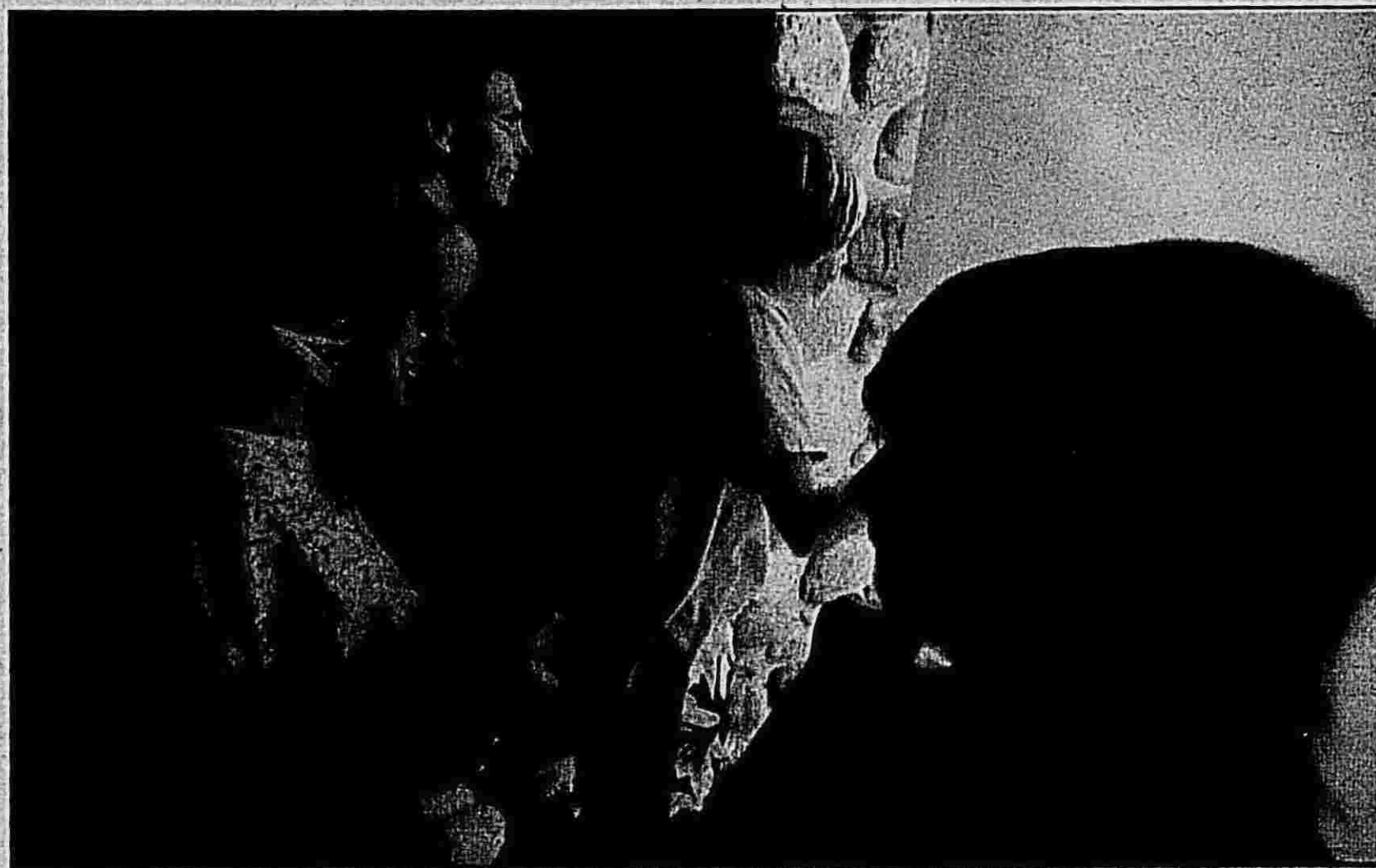
Discovering America

The Field Museum introduces a new, permanent exhibit called "The Ancient Americas," which looks at past civilizations.

26

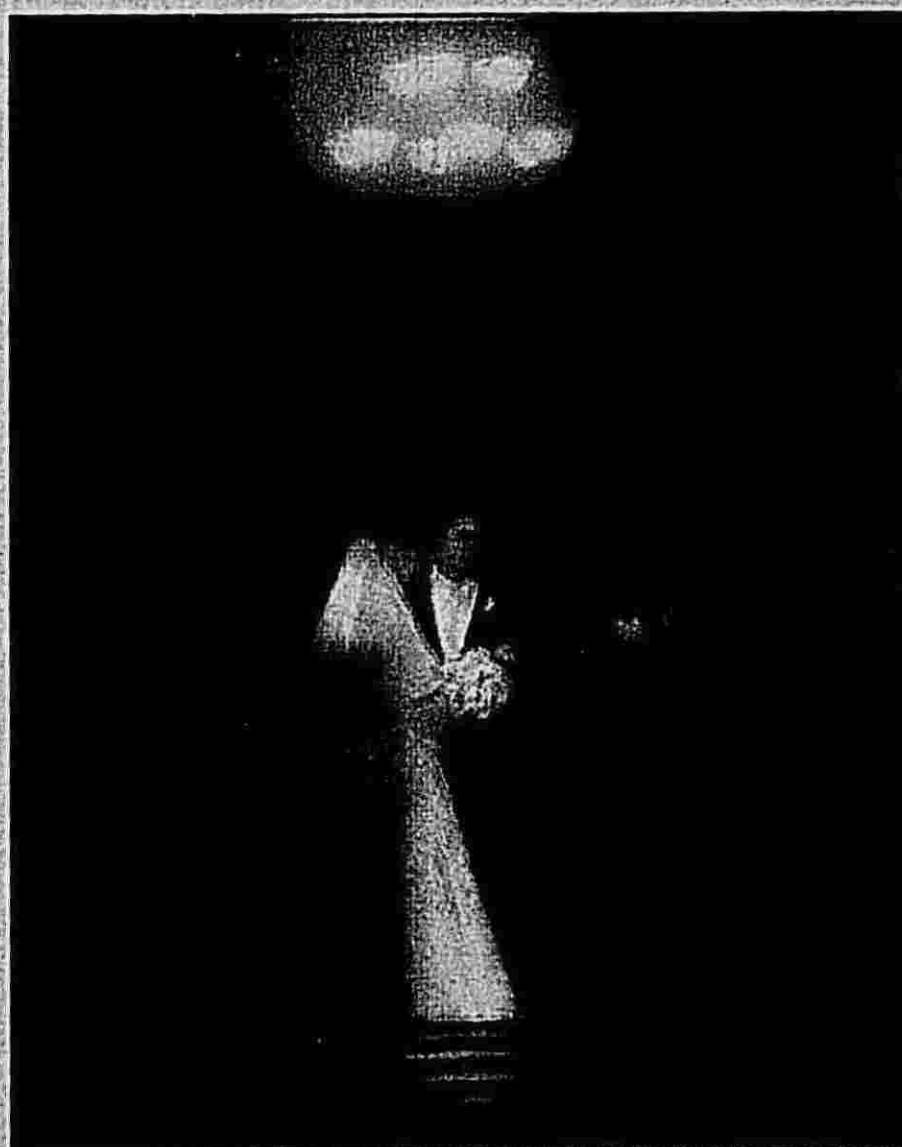


'A Day in the Life'



1:13 p.m. - Evelyn Cole, of Lake Bluff, with her children Wyatt, 11, and Emily, 9, shivers as she peeks out of a warming tent before plunging into Lake Michigan for the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics.

Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com



Chris Padgett - cpadgett@nwnewsgroup.com

3:19 p.m. - Chris Tillson and his new wife, Meghan, are photographed after their wedding inside St. Gilbert's Church in Grayslake.

On Saturday, March 3, Lake County Journals photographers Sandy Bressner, Chris Padgett and Annie Christie set out to show an average day in Lake County through photographs.

"A Day in the Life of Lake County" gives an hour-by-hour glimpse at what Lake County residents do on an average, cold Saturday in March.

Pictured events include a wedding in Grayslake, a polar plunge in Lake Bluff and sledding in Wadsworth. Although these events might be considered beyond average, they do not overshadow the moments spent in a laundromat or sipping hot chocolate while selling Girl Scout cookies.

Thank you for spending a Saturday with the photography staff of the Lake County Journals. See more photos on page A30.



Annie Christie - achristie@nwnewsgroup.com

2:42 p.m. - Two-year-old Ruby Vazquez, of Round Lake Beach, drinks a soda as she watches the washing machine at "My Laundry" in Round Lake Park.

Impostors take over at planetarium

Replica telescopes, astrolabes come to Chicago museum

Want to know more?

For more information about "Impostors!," visit www.adlerplanetarium.org.

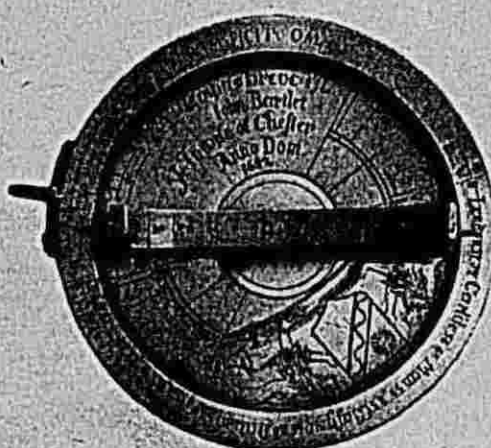
Things are not always what they seem. Lurking among the rare and valuable instruments in the Adler Planetarium's collections are a few "impostors."

These impostors include decorative reproductions, functional models and a handful of wicked forgeries. More than 30 of these tricky objects are on display in "Impostors!," which is part of the Adler's Special Topics Exhibition series.

"This is an unusual exhibition for the Adler," said Marvin Bolt, director of the museum's History of Astronomy department, in a release. "It is fascinating to see the variety of odd, or even disingenuous pieces that find their way to the museum."

The objects on display include replica telescopes and astrolabes with forged signatures.

For example, one of the objects featured in "Impostors!" is a 20th-century American copy of a third-century Roman sundial, bearing a 17th-century English signature, motto and date. It is one of several sundials now in the Adler collections made by D. B. Sheahan, a noted forger who lived in New York around 1900.



Another featured object is a "compendium" — a sundial with other instruments attached — that was long thought to be one of the Adler's treasures. It has a signature of a famous instrument maker from the 16th century and a dedication to a Renaissance prince. After another piece was discovered bearing a suspicious resemblance, both compendiums were eventually determined to be forgeries.

The Adler's Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy features the most important collection of scientific instruments relating to astronomy in the Western hemisphere.

Items in the collection include telescopes, astrolabes, portable sundials, armillary spheres, celestial atlases and early calculating instruments. Nearly 3,000 rare books and 650 works on paper complement the instrument collection.

"Impostors!" opens March 10 and will be on display through Sept. 10. It is free with paid museum admission (\$7 for adults, \$5 for children age 4 through 17 and \$6 for seniors).

Discover America

New exhibit at Field Museum teaches about human past

It's the end of the last Ice Age, more than 13,000 years ago. Your small band of nomads has walked for many weeks, and you're now on land that few people have seen before you. The glaciers have receded, but snow blankets the ground and a cold wind howls around you. Where will you find shelter? What will you eat? How will you live?

"The Ancient Americas," The Field Museum's new, innovative exhibition, is an exploration of the challenges human beings everywhere have faced. It tells the epic story of human life on the American continents, including the arrival of small groups of hunter-gatherers and the great but fragile empires of the Aztecs and the Incas.

Free listening posts throughout the exhibition offer gallery overviews in Spanish.

Based on ground-breaking research by Field Museum scientists and others, "The Ancient Americas" will shatter long-held preconceptions. Visitors will see for themselves the intelligence and creativity that distinguish human beings.

They also will see the innovations that created diversity and allowed various groups to populate the hemisphere from the Arctic to the tip of South America. These groups built great cities, trade networks and sophisticated cultures long before Europeans came to the area and decimated the existing populations, imposing their own culture on the land.



Photo provided

This stone figurine, made by the Wari people of south Peru, depicts an elaborately dressed leader, distinguished by his headdress and tunic. The figure is part of the The Field Museum's new permanent exhibit "The Ancient Americas," which opens March 9.

Rich in people

Contemporary Americans recognize that their society is a tapestry of many cultures. But we tend to think of this mix as a recent development, the consequence of immigration in a highly mobile world. In "The Ancient Americas," visitors will see that an astonishing diversity of peoples already were established in the Western hemisphere long before the Spanish arrived.

The exhibition illuminates both the remarkable differences in cultures that emerged throughout thousands of years, and the similarities underlying human behavior across vast expanses of time and space.

See ANCIENT AMERICAS, page A32

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The Midwest premier of "The TV Set," starring David Duchovny and Sigourney Weaver, will be shown during the Fourth Annual Lake County Film Festival. More than 100 films will be shown during the event.

Walk the red carpet

Fourth Annual Lake County Film Festival ready to entertain viewers

Roll out the red carpet!

The Fourth Annual Lake County Film Festival will take place March 8 through 12 and will feature the best of independent cinema.

During the festival, a variety of films will be shown: nine feature-length documentaries, 14 narrative features and 96 short films. Like last year, many filmmakers will present their movies.

Festival highlights include the documentary "51 Birch Street," which was selected as one of the year's best films by the National Board of Review.

When acclaimed documentarian Doug Block's mother dies, and his father suddenly remarries, Block takes a closer look at his parents' 54-year marriage and asks, "How much about our parents do any of us really want to know?"

Also showing at the festival is the Midwest premiere of "The TV Set," from director Jake Kasdan ("Orange County," "Zero Effect"). In the movie, David Duchovny plays Mike, a writer determined to create a quality television program.

However, network executive Lenny (Sigourney Weaver) is more than willing to sacrifice quality for big ratings in this hilarious film that looks at the behind-the-scenes action of prime time television.

Other films viewers should see include the comedy short "The Pre-Nup," where an idealistic preschool teacher is planning her dream wedding when her wealthy groom hands her a 102-page pre-nup. The film stars local

Want to know more?

For more information about the Fourth Annual Lake County Film Festival, including full descriptions of all films and show times, visit www.lakecountyfilmfest.com.

actress Marcy Kaplan ("Days of Our Lives"), as well as Larry Miller ("Pretty Woman"), Alex Borstein ("Family Guy") and Bruce Altman ("Matchstick Men").

During last year's festival, three attending filmmakers — Donlee Brussel, Glynn Beard and Steve Gelder — decided to shoot a short film. The result is "Cabbie," a laugh-out-loud mockumentary about Marty Yakavelli, a guy who dreams of someday being a Chicago cab driver, if only he could get his driver's license. Shot entirely in Chicago and Libertyville, this film is already an audience favorite.

A new event to this year's Lake County Film Festival is a staged reading of an award-winning screenplay by local writer Juliet McDaniel. The reading will take place Sunday, March 7, and will star actors Abby Miller ("The Nine," "Gilmore Girls"), Steve Gelder ("Cabbie") and Jake Jarvi ("The Girl," "Old School"), among others.

Films will be screened in Libertyville at the Civic Center, the American Legion Hall, and Libertyville High School.

The festival will host its closing day award ceremonies and film screenings at College of Lake County in Grayslake.

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RATINGS

★★★★
EXCELLENT★★★
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AWFUL

Photo provided

Director Zack Snyder creates a video game-style atmosphere and look in his film, "300."

A world of mistakes

By JEFFREY WESTHOFF

sidetracks@nwnewsgroup.com

"300"

★ 1/2

Director: Zack Snyder

Genre: Action/adventure

More information: Rated R for graphic battle sequences throughout, some sexuality and nudity; running time is 117 minutes.

Months ago, "300" was already revered by those who consider it a magnificent achievement for a live-action film to look exactly like a video game.

Forgive me, but I don't see that as a reason to celebrate.

Video games do a fine job of being video games without movies needing to imitate them. Although I suppose it comes as a relief to the scores of video game designers who have strived to make their products look exactly like movies. Now that director Zack Snyder has decided to meet them halfway, they can relax and stop worrying about increasing those polygon counts.

Furthermore, live action that is indistinguishable from animation does not make Frank Miller's graphic novel hyper-real, as Snyder and his followers profess. It makes it hyper-unreal, further distorting Miller's distorted account of the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C.

At the narrow pass of Thermopylae, a force of 300 Spartans fought a million-man Persian army. That's the short-hand account, but even the account is too complicated for Snyder. He strips away the historical context of the battle and muddles the fact that the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae were the vanguard of a force that numbered between 5,000 and 7,000 (in the graphic novel, Miller goes with the higher esti-

mate in his novel).

Snyder, who adapted Miller's novel with Kurt Johnstad and Michael B. Gordon, reduces "300" to a schoolboy's fervid dreams of Sparta, a militant society devoted to warfare. Men whose entire lives are a training montage. A culture where nothing is said, but everything is proclaimed. A city-state where even the females proclaim macho mantras, such as, "Only Spartan women give birth to real men."

Gerard Butler ("The Phantom of the Opera") plays King Leonidas of Sparta with a Scottish burr that sounds two millennia out of place until you realize that the actor he resembles, the young Sean Connery, is now the accepted standard of cinematic virility. If it is anything, "300" is a fantasy of virility.

In fact, you might sense the filmmakers got a bit worried what making a movie about 300 men who wear little more than leather Speedos and two coats of olive oil might say about their own orientation. So they toss in gay-bashing jokes like one that refers to Athenians as

"philosophers and boy lovers" and present the Persian ruler Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) as an androgynous monster - Boy George playing Goliath.

And so "300" makes homoeroticism safe for homophobes. The film's video-game look derives from Snyder's slavish attempt to recreate Miller's drawings, just as Robert Rodriguez did with the film version of Miller's "Sin City." Copying Miller's visual lines is one thing, but copying his written lines is ridiculous. The narration in "300" is far from Spartan, filled with such florid prose as, "All his 40 years have been a straight road to this moment."

This story has been filmed before, in the serviceable yet strangely sedate 1962 sword-and-sandal epic "The 300 Spartans." The earlier film at least got most of the history right. This "300" is so obsessed with giving the Spartans credit for every Persian slain at Thermopylae that it misses their true noble sacrifice, that once Xerxes outflanked them, the 300 Spartans (as well as 700 Thespian soldiers) remained on the battlefield to cover the retreat, ordered by Leonidas, of the rest of the Greek army.

And if you don't find this revisionist history disturbing or revolting, remember what we call Persia these days - Iran.

• Jeffrey Westhoff is a movie critic for the NorthWest News Group. He can be reached by e-mail at sidetracks@nwnewsgroup.com.

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SAT & SUN MATINEES 12:45 1:45
ZODIAC (R) (4:45) 8:15;
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Zodiac (R) ✓ 12:40, 2:00, 4:05, 6:00, 8:00, 9:35

Black Snake Moan (R) ✓ 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

Wild Hogs (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 1:45, 2:40, 4:05, 5:10, 6:30, 7:35, 9:05, 10:00

Last King Of Scotland (R) 6:55, 9:40

Astronaut Farmer (PG) 1:15, 4:00

Number 23 (R) Fr, Su - Th - 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55

Sa - 12:55, 3:10, 7:40, 9:55

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Breach (PG13) 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

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● Running Time

Critic critique

Shortly after writing a column about studios shutting critics out of screenings, I received the type of e-mail a critic dreams of.

Mary Ann Werman wrote to thank me for revealing that more films than ever are being withheld from critics prior to opening day.

This prevents filmgoers from consulting a review on opening weekend. Mrs. Werman went on to say the following.

"When our family recently decided to see a movie on a Saturday afternoon, we turned to the local paper for information. We use this source not only for show times, but also for information on a film's rating. As parents of preteens, we rely on details provided in movie reviews to help determine if a film is appropriate for our children. For example, most times a review will say why (violence, language, etc.) the film is rated as it is. This information is not readily available in your standard theater ads.

"The movie our kids wanted to see that day was 'Epic Movie.' There was nothing in the paper regarding this movie. Since it was opening weekend for this film, I did not think too much about this. This movie was garbage and totally inappropriate for any children. The current motion picture association rating system leaves a lot to be desired. What is appropriate PG-13 in some cases is clearly not in others.

"The following week I checked the local paper for a review of 'Epic Movie.' There was none. Your article was in

our local paper a week later and shed some light on this particular situation.

"Never again will we go to a movie that has not been reviewed or recommended. It is very difficult to wade through the bombardment of movie advertisement and find appropriate family entertainment. We



Jeffrey Westhoff

appreciate and rely on information supplied by you, the critic. Thank you."

Mrs. Werman's letter raises another issue, and that is the boondoggle

known as the PG-13 rating.

The Motion Picture Association of America, which administers the rating system, pretends the PG-13 rating protects preteens from material that might be too intense for them, to quote an old movie ad. However, studios quickly latched onto PG-13 as a way to allow younger teens into films that previously would have been rated R. "Epic Movie" is one such "backdoor-R" film.

Parents who want to learn more about why a film received a certain rating when a review is unavailable can find the information online.

Officially, they also can find it at two Web sites operated by the MPAA: www.mpa.org and www.filmratings.com.

• Jeffrey Westhoff is a movie critic for the NorthWest News Group. He can be reached by e-mail at sidetracks@nwnewsgroup.com.



"Zodiac," directed by David Fincher, tells the story of three men who search to solve the mystery of a serial killer who terrorized the San Francisco area in the early 1970s. The film stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo and Robert Downey Jr.

Stars spell success for 'Zodiac'

By JEFFREY WESTHOFF
sidetracks@nwnewsgroup.com

"Zodiac"

☆☆☆

Writer/director: James Vanderbilt/David Fincher
Genre: Drama

More information: Rated R for some strong killings, language, drug material and brief sexual images; running time is 158 minutes

"Zodiac," a film about the serial killer who terrorized the San Francisco area in the early 1970s, is the first independent film epic.

Its length, and particularly its casting, recalls such huge World War II films as "The Longest Day" and "A Bridge to Far," where all the major roles were played by superstars.

The stars of "Zodiac" aren't household names like Robert Redford, Sean Connery and Laurence Olivier, but they are the superstars of the indie

world: Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr., Brian Cox, Chloë Sevigny, Elias Koteas, Dermot Mulroney, Philip Baker Hall and others.

"Zodiac" also has a superstar indie director, David Fincher,

whose "Seven" was the best of the recent serial-killer genre. As he exchanges a fictional serial killer for a real one, Fincher brings a dedication to facts that is bracing at first (the beginning of the film intentionally resembles "All the President's Men"), but ultimately proves that the Zodiac case contains too many facts to fit comfortably into a theatrical release, even one nearly three hours long.

The story features four main characters and nearly a dozen important minor characters. The Zodiac murders officially remain unsolved, although the film names a definitive suspect.

Screenwriter James Vanderbilt structures the plot as something of a relay race, with the Zodiac investigation handed off three times along the way. The first to go after it is Paul Avery (Downey), crime reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. Next is San Francisco police Inspector David Toschi (Ruffalo), who works the case along with his partner, William Armstrong (Anthony Edwards).

Finally, nearly a decade after the trail has gone cold, Robert Graysmith (Gyllenhaal) becomes obsessed with solving the murders.

Graysmith is the most unlikely of the investigators. He goes on to write the books "Zodiac" and "Zodiac Unmasked," on which the film is based.

• Jeffrey Westhoff is a movie critic for the NorthWest News Group. He can be reached by e-mail at sidetracks@nwnewsgroup.com.

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Counting the hours in Lake County



Annie Christie - achristie@nwnewsgroup.com

1:44 p.m. - Children stretch while attending a birthday party at the Gymnastics Factory in Grayslake.



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

12:09 p.m. - Seventeen-year-old Dan Sach, of Waukegan, heads down the sled hill at Wadsworth Community Park.



Chris Padgett - cpadgett@nwnewsgroup.com

9:07 p.m. - An employee of Warren Township High School picks up clutter from the bleacher section following Warren's IHSA Class AA Regional championship basketball game win over Crystal Lake South in Gurnee.

A classical Indian dance unveiled

Original production comes to Chicago

Natya Dance Theatre, the internationally acclaimed Chicago-based dance company dedicated to the celebration of classical Indian dance and its reinterpretation for contemporary audiences, will present the world premiere of "Alakshaya: The Invisible Veil" in Chicago.

The original piece debuts at the Dance Center of Columbia College at 8 p.m. on March 15, 16 and 17. The piece will be presented again at McAninch Arts Center of College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn and at Elgin Community College in Elgin. Tickets are now on sale.

Created and choreographed by the mother-daughter team of Hema and Krithika Rajagopalan, "Alakshaya: The Invisible Veil" asks the question, "Are we in control of our desires, or are our desires in control of us?"

Using the traditional movement and vocabulary of the 3000-year-old dance form Bharata Natyam, the piece invites audience members to query their reactions to such contemporary themes as genocide, terrorism and war.

Inspired by Chicago and its diversity, "Alakshaya: The Invisible Veil" tells its story through dance, live music and



JoAne Taylor, Krithika Rajagopalan and Emma Draves perform with Natya Dance Theatre. The internationally acclaimed Chicago-based dance company will premiere "Alakshaya: The Invisible Veil" at Columbia College in Chicago March 15 through 17. The performance features classical Indian dance.

theatrical spectacle.

"Alakshaya is a Sanskrit word meaning invisible and in this work, we are using it as a

metaphor for the invisible veils that mediate our relationships,"

Artistic Director Hema Rajagopalan said in a release. "A

veil can be both a positive and negative thing. It can blind us from the tragedy and suffering we cause by self-centered ac-

Performance schedule

• "Alakshaya: The Invisible Veil" will be performed at 8 p.m. on March 15, 16 and 17 at Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., in Chicago. Tickets cost \$22 to \$26. To buy tickets, call (312) 344-8300.

• The production will be performed at 8 p.m. on March 30 at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, at Fawell and Park boulevards, in Glen Ellyn. Tickets cost \$17 to \$27. To buy tickets, call (630) 942-4000.

• The production will be performed at 8 p.m. on April 14, at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, in Elgin. Tickets cost \$14 to \$18. To buy tickets, call (847) 622-0300.

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Natya Dance Theatre was founded in 1975 by renowned dancer, choreographer and dance educator Hema Rajagopalan. The highly innovative work of the company offers profound and subtle expressions of humanity's deepest questions and values in the context of our present-day lives.

For more information, visit www.natya.com.

Photo provided by Eileen Ryan

A new type of fuel for cars might be hiding in the trash

Gastrification uses waste instead of fossil fuel

A source of alternative fuel for your car might be sitting at the curb right outside of your home.

The concept of converting garbage into a form of usable fuel might seem like an idea too good to be true. But, due to a production technique called gasification, the conversion of waste and other materials into fuel is becoming an increasingly viable alternative to traditional fossil fuel production.

Ethanol, an alcohol-based fuel typically derived from corn, has been gaining prevalence in the United States for years. According to a report by the Earth Policy Institute, ground was broken for one new ethanol production plant every nine days between November 2005 and

June 2006.

Additionally, the annual growth of grain used to produce ethanol increased to 14 million tons in 2006, up from only two million tons in 2001.

But the rate of ethanol production might climb even more dramatically in the future. Recently, some manufacturers have honed their gasification production abilities and can now efficiently produce ethanol from a variety of materials, such as garbage and even low-level radioactive waste, in addition to corn.

There are three basic types of gasification technology - steam, plasma and molten metal - all of which are used to convert various solid and liquid waste feedstocks into syngas. A Fischer Tropsch system, a type of chemical process, is then used to convert the syngas into ethanol, synthetic diesel fuel or other marketable products.

Although gasification is not a new

concept, companies such as XcelPlus, a Virginia-based manufacturer of ethanol fuel and other automotive products, have modernized the manufacturing process, making it possible to convert material into ethanol at a fraction of the cost of traditional ethanol manufacturing.

According to Bill Smith, president of XcelPlus, his company's facilities will have the ability to produce in minutes the amount of ethanol fuel that previously took hours to manufacture. This level of efficiency, combined with the abundance of solid waste ripe for conversion into fuel, could have a significant impact on the world's future fuel market.

With a growing number of new vehicles that can operate on either gasoline or ethanol-based fuels, so-called "flexible fuel" cars, a world using less petroleum might be closer than you think.

For more information, visit www.xcelplus.com.



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Garbage is becoming an alternative to fossil fuel.

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Photo provided

Garbage is becoming an alternative to fossil fuel.

● Elements of the Ridiculous

And it was all downhill from there

I have (sigh) weak ankles, which lead to sliding around the ice rink on my face and running like a bear with a tranquilizer dart in its neck.

But there was a time when I could ski, probably because the stiff boots held my wimpy joints at the correct angle.

I learned to ski one snowy night in seventh grade on the bunny hill at Villa Olivia Country Club in Bartlett.

That night, I helplessly watched as one ski detached from my boot and slid away into eternity. I nearly poked my eye out with a pole. I suffered count-

less humiliating wipeouts on the tow-rope. Then, with snow up my nose, I headed for the big hill.



Jana Thompson

My little sister learned to jump up in the air, twirl her skis around like helicopter blades and ski down the hill backward. I learned how to fall down without fracturing anything.

But soon, I was pretty good

too, and I looked for more opportunities to ski.

A friend and I took a church teen skiing trip to a big Wisconsin resort. We accidentally ended up on top of the hill that had compound fracture written all over it.

Sure, we could ski, but shouldn't we work our way up to this one?

Gravity made up our minds. My skis slowly tipped over the edge. I was sucked down the hill before you could say "uh-oh." My friend was close behind.

I was taught to "pizza wedge" my skis to slow down, a maneuver I soon realized was not going to work.

That was when my friend went screaming past - literally screaming. Then my "pizza wedge" was no more.

Skiers on the hill in front of me turned into bright streaks of light as I broke the sound barrier. I imagined myself crashing through the windows of the lodge, then skidding back to Illinois in a shower of sparks.

I stopped dead at the bottom

of the hill without injury, as did my friend. We hopped on the lift and went again.

One evening, when I was a junior in high school, I was given the keys to the station wagon and told to get my ski-pro sister at the local hill.

The car made a weird noise as it rolled down the steep hill on Rohrsen Road in Elgin.

And then there were no brakes.

Luckily, the road slopes up again, and the old wagon slowed. But it was still rolling toward busy Route 19.

Terrified, I decided to jump for it. Our only car stopped and rolled backward, driverless, between two cleverly spaced trees, then came to rest in someone's yard. Phew!

The lights were on at the church next door, so I banged on the window (this was before cell phones were the norm). Maybe I was a little too rattled, because a few moments later, a squad car appeared. The parishioners watched from the window.

The officer had me sit in the

back seat (I should have politely knocked on the front door instead of appearing out of the darkness and screaming and howling at the window like a Wes Craven character). He was going to take me home and call a tow truck, but he had one other stop to make.

A pickup truck had skidded off Bode Road and mowed down a metal road sign, which was now dangerously close to its gas tank.

The officer got out to poke around, leaving me trapped in the locked back seat of a squad car. I tried the door handle. I wanted to at least be able to run if the truck blew up.

Maybe he heard me clawing frantically at the door because he took me home without further ado.

I'd still like to go skiing this season, but I'll take weather in the 40s instead.

• Jana Thompson is a columnist for the NorthWest News Group. She can be reached at jthompson@nwnewsgroup.com.

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Get a taste of the Americas with a new exhibit at The Field Museum in Chicago

• ANCIENT AMERICAS

Continued from A26

Visitors will discover the kinds of choices indigenous peoples made and how those choices shaped their lives, their societies, and the physical land on which they lived. And they'll see firsthand how the decisions made by earlier societies have influenced the way we live today.

"Creativity, the ability to adapt and innovate, allowed human beings to build successful societies and develop new forms of cultural expression throughout the world," said Jonathan Haas, Field Museum archaeologist and lead curator for "The Ancient Americas," in a release. "But it's only recently that we've come to appreciate the great diversity and the high level of achievement attained, independently, by peoples throughout the Americas."

To tell that story, the gal-

eries of "The Ancient Americas" are organized in a different way - not in chronological order around discrete cultures, as in traditional museum exhibitions, but around the diverse approaches people have developed to meet the challenges they face.

Visitors will see how and why cultures change. They'll see the different forms of hunting and gathering people undertook as they moved through dramatically different environments; the experiments that led to the domestication of animals and plants and the rise of farming communities; the different forms of leadership that some societies turned to and the monuments they created; the formation of hierarchical governments and states; and the building of vast empires.

Giving substance to this narrative are more than 2,200 fascinating artifacts representing more than 20 distinct cultural

groups. Visitors will get to know early pueblo communities of the American Southwest; the mound-building Hopewell and Mississippian cultures of the Midwest; the Taino of the Caribbean; the Zapotec, Maya and Aztec of Mesoamerica; the Moche, Wari and Inca of South America; and many more.

Public programs

"The Ancient Americas" programs and activities include lectures, family workshops, daily gallery programs, student classes and teacher workshops.

Among the highlights, Haas will offer a compelling, first-hand look at the process of bringing the exhibition to life.

The exhibit is a permanent display at the museum.

For updates on public programs and special events, call (312) 665-7400.

For more information, visit www.fieldmuseum.org, or call (312) 922-9410.

● Relish the American Table

Food to noodle over

By GREG and DOROTHY PATENT
editorial@relishmag.com

The great island state of Hawaii is its own melting pot, with the foods of the native Hawaiians blending with those of immigrant workers. A favorite hodgepodge Hawaiian specialty is saimin, a delicious noodle soup. The name probably comes by combining two Chinese words, one meaning "thin," the other, "noodle." But it can contain elements from every cuisine that contributed to early plantation culture – Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Korean and Portuguese.

Saimin is said to have begun as a snack at ball games in Honolulu Stadium, where it became more popular than hot dogs and hamburgers. Today, it is eaten as a snack or sometimes for breakfast. Even McDonald's serves saimin in Hawaii.

Hawaiians would add a serving of rice to make it a real meal, but for mainlanders, saimin can make a satisfying lunch and is a way to use up leftovers without the rice.

Saimin is basically a soup made with chicken or fish broth and egg noodles. After the noodles are cooked until just soft and ladled into bowls with hot broth, other ingredients are added on top. In Hawaii, typical toppings include cooked egg, sliced green onions, strips of Spam (Spam is a food favorite in the islands), pieces of Portuguese sausage, slices of Asian fishcake and strips of Chinese roast pork called char sui. You also can add colorful vegetables, such as carrots, a few spinach leaves or bok choy.

The beautiful thing about saimin is the freedom it allows the cook to use whatever is on hand. Serve saimin in large, deep bowls and eat it with a soup spoon and chopsticks. Slurp the noodles for proper effect.

You can prep the first three steps of the dish hours ahead. The final cooking will only take a couple of minutes.

Saimin (Serves 4)

Ingredients:

8 ounces dried Chinese egg noodles
1 tablespoon roasted sesame oil
1 to 2 cups broccoli flowerets
4 cups lower-sodium chicken broth
3 slices fresh ginger
8 ounces extra-firm tofu, well-drained and patted dry
2 tablespoons vegetable cooking oil, divided
2 large eggs, lightly beaten and seasoned with salt and pepper
1 teaspoon soy sauce
1/4 teaspoon salt
Pepper
1/4 pound fresh snow peas, stringed
1 1/2 cups sliced bok choy or Napa cabbage
6 ounces cooked chicken or pork, chopped or shredded
1 cup fresh bean sprouts
2 green onions, thinly sliced on the bias
Roasted sesame oil



Directions:

Cook noodles following package directions. Drain well, rinse in cold water and combine with sesame oil in a large bowl.

Cook broccoli in 2 to 3 cups boiling water 2 to 3 minutes, or until crisp-tender. Drain and rinse in cold water. Drain again and set aside.

Heat broth and ginger in a large saucepan over low heat about 30 minutes; do not allow it to boil. Remove ginger.

Cut tofu into 1/2-inch-thick squares and blot well with paper towels. Heat 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When hot, add tofu and cook on both sides 5 to 6 minutes, or until golden brown. Set aside on paper towels. Add remaining 1 tablespoon vegetable oil to pan; when hot, add egg and rotate pan to film the bottom with a thin layer of egg. When egg has set on the bottom, carefully flip it over. Slide egg crepe onto a plate and cool. Roll up to form a tight cylinder, and cut crosswise into thin strips.

When ready to serve, season broth with soy sauce, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; add snow peas and cabbage. Cook 1 minute. Add noodles, broccoli, pork or chicken, tofu, egg strips and bean sprouts; cook 30 seconds longer. Divide into bowls, scatter green onions on top, and drizzle with sesame oil. Serve immediately.

• Greg and Dorothy Patent are contributors with Relish Magazine. Look for Relish magazine each month in the Lake County Journals. For more Relish recipes, to sign up for a bi-weekly newsletter, or to leave a note on a Relish message board, log on to www.relishmag.com.

● To Do

Maid service

The Maids Home Services company is offering the ultimate escape – a year's worth of maid service, airline tickets and a host of other prizes in its third annual Nobody Outcleans The Maids Instant Win Sweepstakes.

Consumers can enter the online instant-win sweepstakes through March 31 at www.maids.com.

By entering, participants have two ways to win – instantly or in the grand prize sweepstakes.

Meals on Wheels

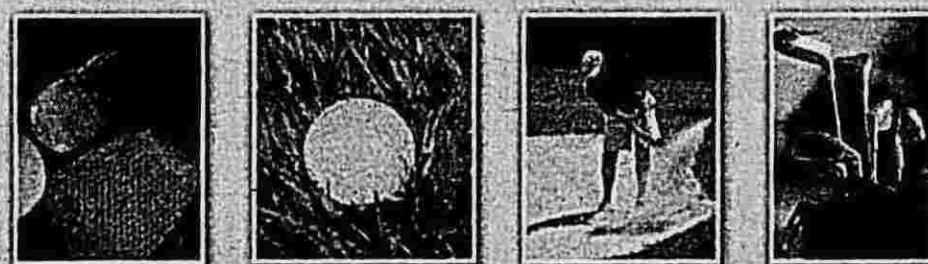
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Catholic Charities, Lake County Services.

Catholic Charities will host its ninth annual Meals on Wheels Dinner Dance and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 17, at Maravela's Banquets in Fox Lake to raise money for its Meals on Wheels program.

Tickets for the event cost \$35 a person and can be purchased by calling Catholic Charities at (847) 782-4119.



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Swing back to the 50s

By TOM WITOM
thomaswitom@yahoo.com

The revival by Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire of "Grease" represents, in a sense, a homecoming. This popular musical, by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, originated in Chicago, where it made its debut in February 1971.

A Broadway hit, "Grease" further established its credentials as a cultural keepsake with a 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John.

Director-choreographer Marc Robin retains the flavor and zaniness of the original show, while at the same time tweaking it here and there. It's 1957 on stage, and there's not a poodle skirt in sight during the dance contest.

Nevertheless, the show holds its audience appeal, breezing along with summer love, a cool jalopy that makes more than one appearance and greaser boys with black leather jackets and slicked-back ducktail-style hair. Their devoted girlfriends, "The Pink Ladies," are on hand

Tickets, please

What: "Grease"

Where: Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, 10 Marriott Drive

When: Through April 22

Tickets: \$42

Show information: (847) 634-0200

to initiate a smart, well-heeled and impressionable transfer student, Sandy Dumbrowski (a winning performance by Megan Nicole Arnoldy), to their circle. Wine, smoking and making out are part of the rite of passage.

Matthew Hydzik fills the bill as heartthrob Danny Zuko, who'll do just about anything to win Sandy's heart - even to the point of joining the jocks as a member of the track team.

Brandy McClendon proves herself an adept comedienne as Frenchy ("Beauty School Dropout"); the same goes for Stephen Schellhardt as Doody, her gun-shy boyfriend. There's also fine work by Tammy Mader as the tough-talking, boy-crazy Betty Rizzo; Tempe Thomas as Marty, a girl who has been around; Lara Filip as Jan, the



Photo provided

The Broadway hit "Grease" will be performed at Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire through April 22.

girl with a passion for food, and Matt Raftery as her boyfriend Roger.

Jason Shuffler, making his first appearance at the Marriott, packs a wallop as Kenickie ("Greased Lightning").

Veteran actor Paula Scrofano cranks up the laughter as the prissy English teacher, Miss Lynch, who quickly cuts loose after imbibing in some doctored punch. At the same time, Bernie Yvon needs no encouragement to lose his inhibitions as the middle-aged sock hop emcee, Vince Fontaine ("Born to Hand-Jive").

● Everymom

Picking apart meals

Question: My 3-year-old son will not eat any kind of vegetable or fruit. He is picky overall with his food. Sometimes I wonder how he survives with the little amount he eats. I can tell that he dreads mealtime, as they are such a battle. Any ideas on how to make mealtime more comfortable for him and how to dress up veggies and fruits to make them more appealing?

- Louri, North Aurora

Answer: I'd have an easier time dressing my paranoid cat in a princess dress than I would getting my daughter to eat a piece of broccoli.

When she turned 3, she decided she no longer liked food. Unless you count whipped cream, fruit snacks and a bowl of macaroni and cheese.

It's not like I ask much - a sandwich, maybe some Spaghettios to mix things up a bit? You'd think I just asked her to eat a piece of liver with a side of alfalfa sprouts.

I'm told, like most childhood phases, this too will end.

Kids that age will want to

eat the same things over and over again and be reluctant to try new foods, said Joan Kanute, the lead dietitian for Sherman Health in Elgin.

"You're just supposed to ride it out," she said.

If you're worried about your



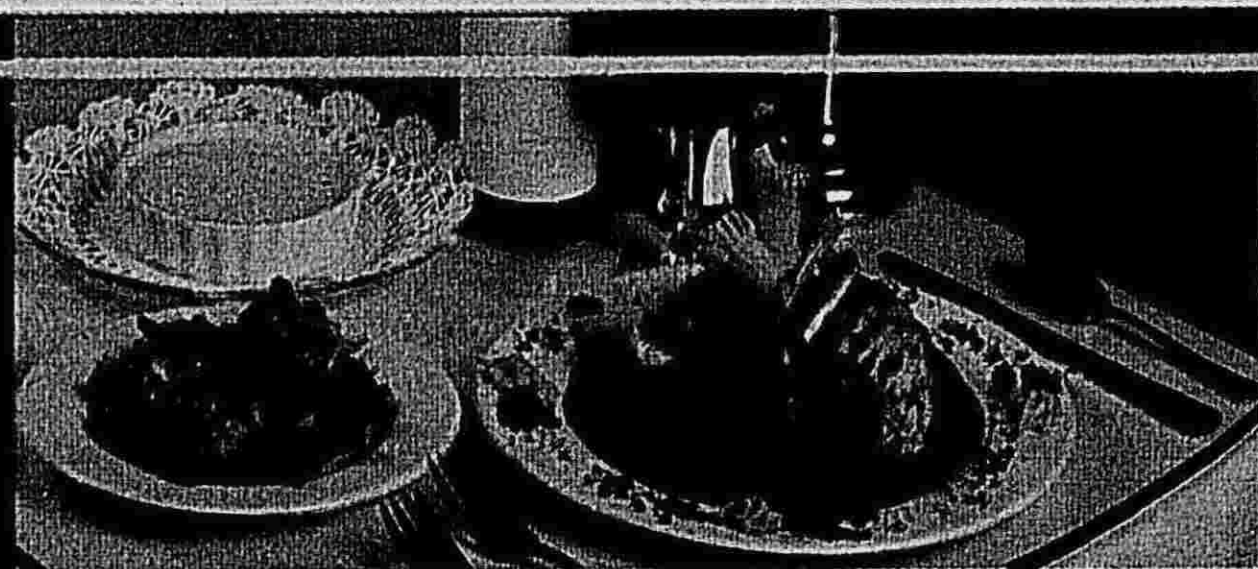
Jami Kunzer

child's growth, weight or any nutrition-related issues, consult a pediatrician. According to the American Dietetic

Association, it can take 15 to 20 exposures to a food for a child to be comfortable eating it.

• Columnist Jami Kunzer is the mother of Summer, 2, and infant twins Anna and Lilly. She writes about the everyday challenges facing parents. You also can connect with Jami online Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through her blog, which can be found at www.nwherald.com. Reach Jami at jkunzer@nwnewsgroup.com, or (815) 459-4122.

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● Horoscope

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Your world is a mix of love and adventure this week, Pisces.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You're feeling a bit disconnected lately, Aries. Take some time to readjust by visiting with family and friends.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

It is best to curb your aggression, Taurus.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Write a thank you note to someone, Gemini.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Time and distance are no match if you

work your connections, Cancer.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

You will lose a class of wills this week, Leo, so don't be too surprised.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

You can't have all of the answers, Virgo.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

You can't cater solely to you, Libra.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Your senses are alive, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Less is more this week, Sagittarius.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Expect positive developments in a working relationship, friendship or romance, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Don't start a new project this week, Aquarius.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

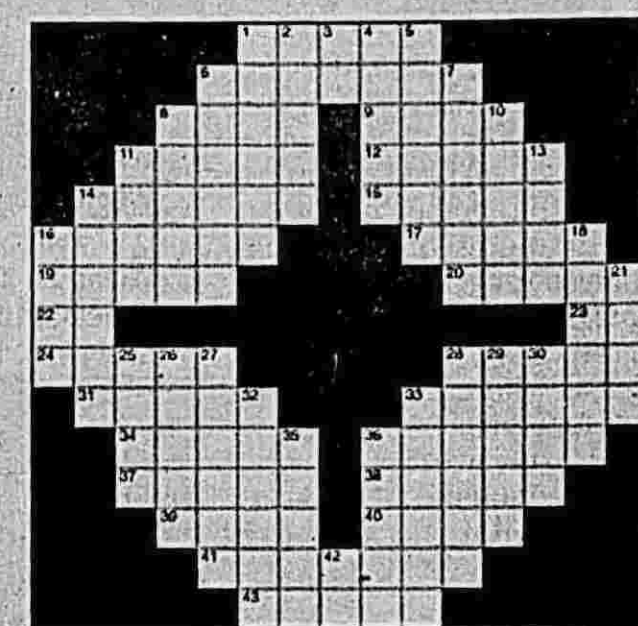
- Latin ballroom dance
- Overhead lining of a room
- Henry's last wife Catherine
- Rise upward into the air
- Eagle's nest
- Mistake
- Makes joyful
- Bonitos
- In a way, removes
- City in SW New Hampshire
- Lettuces
- Sum
- Plays music
- Gallium
- Plateaus
- Synagogues
- Anwar __, Egyptian statesman
- Ends
- Monkey of W. Africa
- Hosts film festival
- Bow _____

light spar

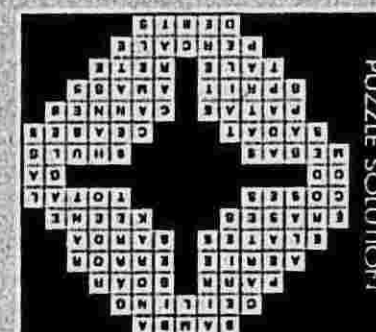
- Accumulate
- Story
- Network of nerves
- Fabric
- Liabilities

DOWN

- Succession of programs
- Buenos _____
- Milliliter
- Wood _____; large wading birds
- Ski jacket
- Bills of fare
- Attic
- 1st Baron Daryngton, Herbert
- Cowboy show
- Expression of sorrow
- Emotional speech
- In a way, falls into ruin
- Electronic counter-counter-measures



- Raptors
- Young lady
- Drains
- Conform
- Ancient Persian ruler
- Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- _____ and Gretel
- Economic consumptions
- Followed
- Even-toed
- desert mammals
- Cubic meter (French)
- Weight unit for gems
- A radio band



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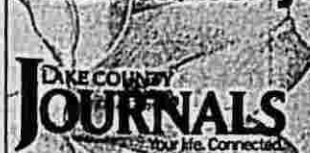


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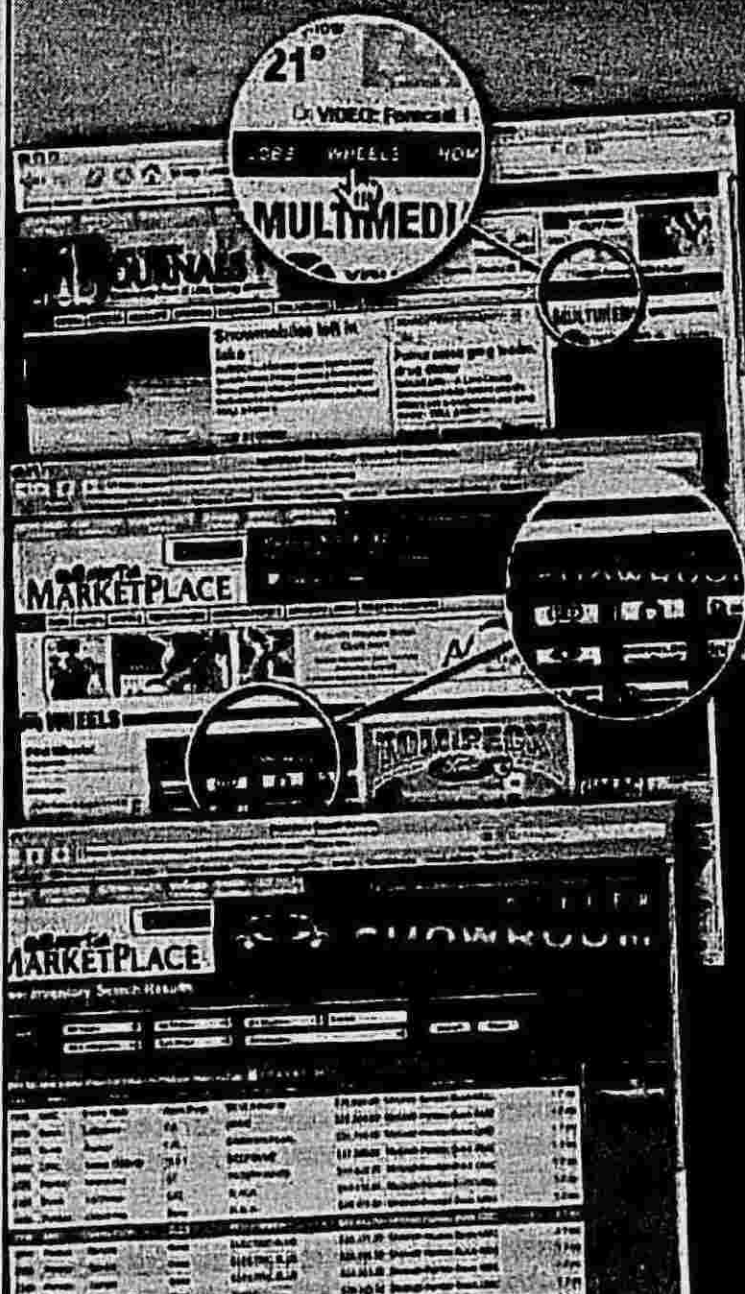


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Swimming through the Internet for clothes

Buying a bathing suit online has advantages, including easy returns, spending less money

Sometimes, shopping for a bathing suit is no day at the beach.

Between running from store to store and perusing myriad styles and fits (some of which might look great while others might not), finding that perfect swimsuit can prove to be a daunting task.

But shopping online or in catalogs could be the lifesaver you're looking for, says shopping and fashion expert Genevieve Yraola. While you might not think of turning to catalogs, shopping at home actually provides numerous advantages over shopping in stores. Yraola explains a few reasons why.

- **Instant gratification** – The perfect bikini at 2 a.m. in the middle of winter? Done. Shopping at home for your swimsuit gives you the ease and ability to get exactly what you want at the click of a button, no matter what the season or time of day.

- **Easy returns** – Some stores and boutiques don't offer a lenient return policy on swimwear. In contrast, you'll find that many catalogs and online retailers offer easy returns with no questions asked.

Just be sure to keep a bathing suit's liner shields intact.

- **Save money** – Shopping online or from catalogs can help you comparison shop without sprinting between different retail stores or malls. Many catalog companies also offer greater price options that don't compromise style or quality.

- **Model vs. hanger** – Swimsuits do not typically have great hanger appeal. In catalogs and Web pages, almost every featured swimsuit will be shown on mannequins or models. This way, it's easier for you to visualize what the suit actually looks like when worn.

- **Sizing up the options** – In stores, popular sizes of swimsuits can become quickly sold-out and specialty sizes like petite, plus and tall can be rarities. Many catalog companies, however, stock and re-stock once they're sold out of a particular swimsuit and often offer a wider variety of specialty sizes.

Yraola recommends www.Newport-News.com, www.Spiegel.com and www.Carabella.com as a few good places that you can start looking for that perfect swimsuit.



Photo provided by Michael Hnatov

Buying a swimsuit online has its advantages. Many swimsuit styles are available on the Internet. Shopping online can save consumers money, and they have the option to return merchandise easily.

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Coffee lovers, rejoice

Acid-free roast is a treat for those with sensitive stomachs

For millions of Americans, mornings just aren't the same without a cup of joe. In fact, coffee ranks as one of the most popular drinks in the United States, with Americans drinking more than 300 million cups of it every day, according to the Specialty Coffee Association of America.

But for some people, a little cup of java can mean a big problem for their stomachs.

According to the online coffee buying guide www.CoffeeReview.com, bright, acidic roasts are some of the most frequently offered brews by manufacturers. For years, consumers looking for a smooth, low-acid coffee have been largely overlooked.

But with the incredible demand for coffee and the growing popularity of special-

ty brews, more low-acid and acid-free roasts are now appearing on store shelves. Some companies, such as Arizona-based Tyler's Coffee, sell only acid-free roasts.

Tyler Ornstein, chief executive officer of Tyler's Coffee, said that his company's trick to brewing a coffee that's devoid of acid is a computerized "Z-roasting" process.

The result, Ornstein said, is a balanced, fully caffeinated coffee that does not possess the high levels of acid that can result from over-roasting.

Whatever the manufacturing process, low-acid and acid-free coffees might bring hope to consumers who love the drink but hate the indigestion that sometimes follows.

"Our customers with sensitive stomachs are relieved to learn that they can still continue enjoying a great cup of coffee whenever they want," Ornstein said in a release.

For more information, visit www.tylerscoffees.com, or call (520) 903-2739.

IHSA CLASS AA WAUKEGAN SECTIONAL: WARREN 40, PRAIRIE RIDGE 37

Best things in basketball are free

Warren wins despite all-around struggles at free-throw line

By DANIEL J. PATRICK
dpatrick@nwnewsgroup.com

WAUKEGAN — If there's any speech a basketball player has heard throughout the course of his career, it's that free throws can make or break you.

In the Waukegan sectional semifinal, top-ranked Warren (25-3) almost paid the ultimate price for a poor free-throw shooting night in a low-scoring 40-37 win over Prairie Ridge.

All in all, the 20-11 Wolves put the Blue Devils on the line 11 times in the second half.

Unfortunately for coach Chuck Ramsey, Warren connected on just 12 free throws in 26 attempts. Meanwhile, the Wolves had given the Blue Devils fits by drilling 12 of its 15 attempts from the free-throw line.

But it wasn't just the 46-percent free throw shooting night that was worrying. Nursing small leads with less than a minute left in the fourth quarter, Warren went just 2-for-6 from the line before senior center Julian Jones finally put ice on the contest by finishing 2-for-2 with 11 seconds left.

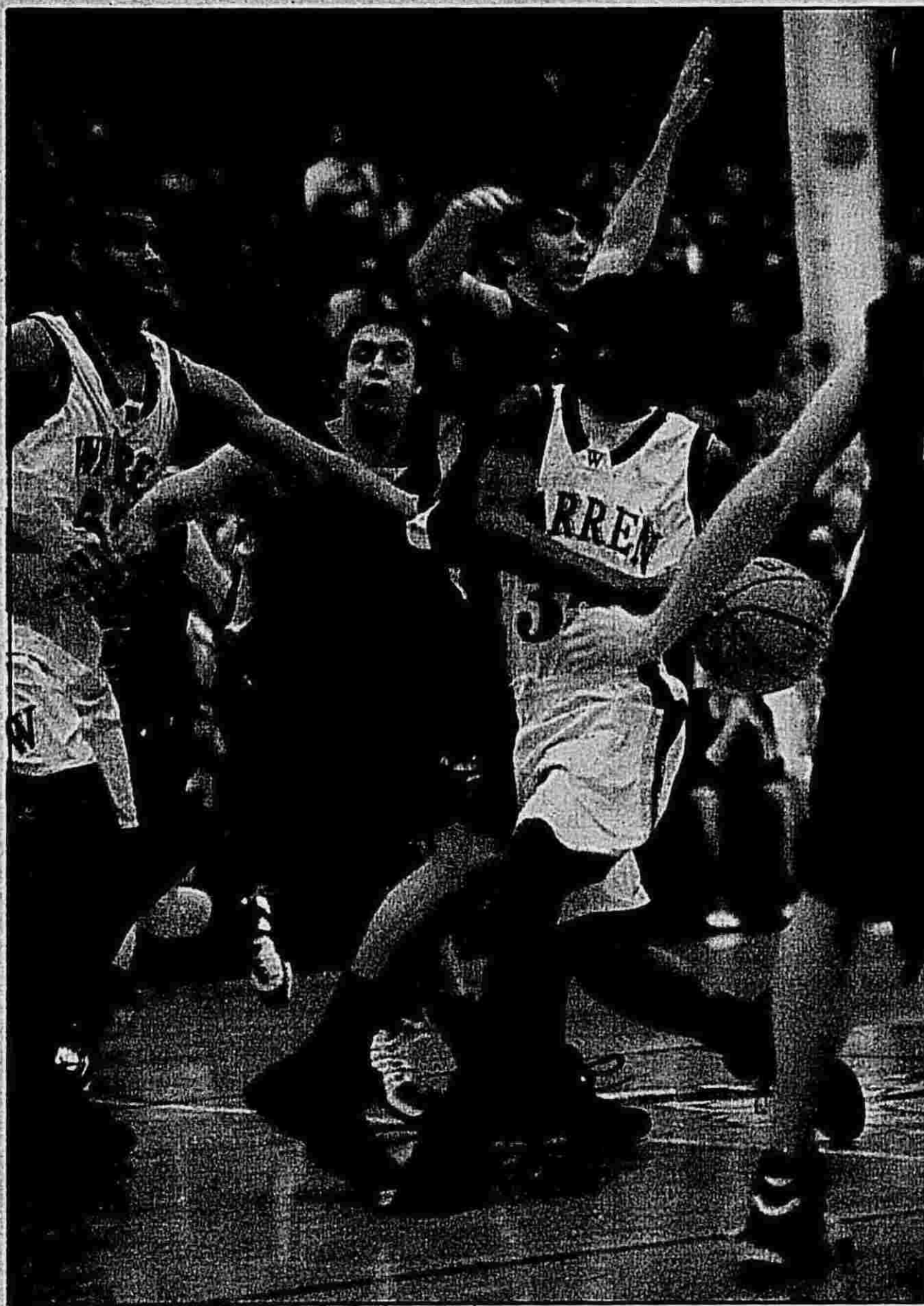
"The pace of the game obviously kept the score down, but the other thing that kept the score down was our poor free-throw shooting," Ramsey said.

With 10 points, seven rebounds and four blocks, Jones turned out to be one of the few Blue Devil options the Wolves didn't have an answer for throughout the game.

"I thought Julian Jones had a great game tonight," Ramsey said. "In a game where there's only 29 rebounds, seven rebounds is a lot. ... Julian kind of saved our bacon tonight."

Despite the low final score, the game started out with a bang for the Blue Devils. Guard Logan Derrick was hot out of the gate, drilling his first three three-pointers in the first four minutes of the game. Derrick's hot hand led Warren to an early 11-2 lead.

However, Prairie Ridge refused to give up, mounting a 12-1 run to start off the second stanza. The Wolves limited Warren to just three points in the entire second quarter and five points in the last 11:30 of the first half to lead to a 21-16 Prairie Ridge halftime lead.



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

Warren's Logan Derrick drives through Prairie Ridge's defense during Warren's 40-37 win in the IHSA Class AA Waukegan Sectional semifinal.

"It took about four minutes for our kids to get acclimated to playing that aggressive of a team," Prairie Ridge coach Corky Card said. "Once we started calming down, we just started to play basketball."

But like a pendulum, momentum switched hands again in the third, as the Blue Devils mounted a 13-2 run of their own.

"The first four minutes of the game and the third quarter was the only good basketball we played tonight," Ramsey

said. "And the first four minutes was kind of deceiving because Logan [Derrick] hit some shots. We didn't execute very well tonight and they did."

Senior Logan Derrick scored a game-high 17 points, but he was quick to credit the Blue Devils' defense for the second half comeback and win. After a dismal second quarter, Derrick said just one defensive fundamental caused the 13-2 Warren run in the third quarter.

See WARREN, page A40

BOYS BASKETBALL

Playing out of character

Postseason forces Blue Devils to switch to defense

By DANIEL J. PATRICK
dpatrick@nwnewsgroup.com

WAUKEGAN — Scoring was never a problem for the Blue Devils this season, but since the postseason began, putting points on the board has been about the only trouble Warren has had.

Throughout the course of the regular season, the Blue Devils were known for their high-powered offense. In 25 games, Warren failed to score 50 points just three times and averaged more than 63 points a game.

Even when the Blue Devils did miss the 50-point mark, they didn't miss by much with 49 against Lake Zurich and Mundelein in December and 46 against Stevenson in January.

But as the old sports adage goes, "you can't count on anything in the postseason."

Between the IHSA Class AA Warren Regional final against Crystal Lake South and the Waukegan Sectional semifinal against Prairie Ridge, the Blue Devils have averaged 43.5 points a game — almost 20 off its regular season average.

In the sectional semifinal Warren started out in the tempo that most people expected, scoring 11 points in just 3:50 thanks to three three-pointers from Logan Derrick. But from then on, the Blue Devils typically high-powered offense, put up just five points in the rest of the quarter. Warren scored just three points in the entire second half.

"I think that was probably the worst quarter we've had all season," Derrick said of the second quarter. "But we had to put that behind us and coach let us know that that quarter was over."

See POSTSEASON, page A40

—● On The Sidelines

The house the Bulldogs built

Nestled at the intersection of Washington and Jackson streets in Waukegan is a piece of history.

Sure, there are some cracks in the walls, and it can get hotter than the fires of Hades when thousands of people are packed into it, but Waukegan's East Gym is a Lake County landmark that can never be replaced.

Much like Wrigley Field, Waukegan's East Gym's charm is its age.

Nicknamed the "Dog Pound," the official reason for the gym's name is the Bulldog mascot.

But for lots of basketball fans, the name truly speaks of the classic experience of being crammed into an arena like dogs in a kennel to watch some good old fashioned basketball.

It's this experience that brings back feelings of nostalgia like no other gym in the state.

Memories of superstars long past, memories of playing your own game and watching others while sitting as a child next to a parent.

For more than 50 years, the East Gym has hosted the IHSA boys basketball tournament and all the memories that go with it.

Let's hope there will at least be 50 more at Washington and Jackson.

Recently, a restoration effort was put into taking care of the hundreds of photos lining the walls outside of the gym.

Some of the photos are nearly a century old and stand like an everlasting badge of honor for the athletes they commemorate.

Photos were touched up, scanned or stored in order to keep the photos, from a century of Waukegan prep athletics, safe for a whole new generation to enjoy.

Now, many of the restored photos are proudly displayed for all to see at the Waukegan

sectional.

According to reports, the restoration effort costs about \$9,000, but the real results are priceless.

Any building is just a hunk of brick and mortar without the memories that are contained within it, and with such priceless photos keeping those memories alive, Waukegan and Lake County as a whole would have lost something grand.

In the heat of competition, it's often easy to forget those who paved the way for you. It's also easy to forget that parents and grandparents were once young and poured their hearts and souls into a sport just like the



Daniel J. Patrick

athletes of today.

But gyms like the "Dog Pound" keep those memories front and center, while young prep athletes make ones of their own.

But even as an athlete who plays for another team, the old-school gym evokes certain feelings that newer, arguably more comfortable, gyms cannot possibly rival.

There's nothing like playing in the same facility your parents played in and there's nothing like feeling as though you're a part of history, even if it is for just 32 minutes.

So while Lake Zurich hosted the IHSA boys basketball sectional in 2005 and Stevenson took a shot at it even before that, this reporter hopes it never happens again.

• Daniel J. Patrick is the sports editor for the Lake County Journals. Write to him at dpatrick@nwnews-group.com.



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnews-group.com

Warren head coach Chuck Ramsey yells to his team from the sidelines during Warren's 40-37 win over Prairie Ridge in the IHSA Class AA Waukegan Sectional semifinal game on March 6.

Free throws on Warren's practice plate

• WARREN

Continued from A39

"Ball pressure," Derrick said simply. "In the first half, we didn't put any ball pressure on their guards. But in the second half, when we came out with the ball pressure, we forced a lot of turnovers and we got a lot of transition buckets out of that."

Dan Curtis led the Prairie Ridge attack with 16 points and three rebounds while forward Joe Parys chipped in 11 points and two steals. Other than Derrick and Jones, Shannon

Adams also was able to score double-digits with 10 points and three rebounds of his own.

After narrowly escaping the first round of the IHSA Class AA Waukegan Sectional because of poor shooting from the free-throw line, Derrick foresees a few free throw drills in his immediate future.

"I think tomorrow, we're going to shoot a lot of free throws," Derrick said with a smile. "But that's the price we have to pay and we won't be shooting like that on Friday [for the sectional final]."



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnews-group.com

Warren's Scott Geske (45) is congratulated by a fan after Warren's 40-37 win over Prairie Ridge.

Wolves tempo slows down Blue Devils

• POSTSEASON

Continued from A39

But Warren's lack of scoring wasn't necessarily because of any offensive problems, instead, it could be because of Prairie Ridge's deliberate control of the clock. Warren coach Chuck Ramsey estimated that the Wolves controlled the ball for "22 out of 32 minutes" in the game.

But ask Prairie Ridge coach Corky Card, the slow, deliberate pace was all according to his plan.

"That's the tempo we wanted," Card said. "If you try to run up and down with a team like Warren, you're going to get nothing but a whoopin'. ... I thought that if we could just take 15 or 20 seconds off the clock before we started looking to attack the basket, we could stay with them."

Prairie Ridge was so deliberate that the Wolves typically had the ball for about two minutes at the end of every quarter. Even though it nearly cost his team the season, Ramsey said he can respect Card's plan.

"That's tournament time," Ramsey said. "You have a way that you play the whole season because you think that's the best way for your team. Then you get into the playoffs against specific opponents and there's no tomorrow and you make adjustments."

Regardless of the score, or in this case, the lack thereof, Warren players and fans are pleased with the end result.

"We can still be proud of [the Prairie Ridge game] because we still won, we still came out and did what we came out to do," center Julian Jones said.

IHSA CLASS AA WARREN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Chris Padgett - cpadgett@nwnewsgroup.com

Brandon Paul (13), of Warren, grimaces as his attempted slam-dunk is rebounded by teammate Jamie Canty during the IHSA Class AA Warren Regional championship against Crystal Lake South. Warren beat Crystal Lake, 47-33, to earn its fourth straight regional title

Four great years

Seniors shine in Warren's fourth straight IHSA Class AA Regional championship

By STEVE PETERSON

speterson@nwnewsgroup.com

GURNEE — Ceola Clark, Shannon Adams and Logan Derrick all gathered near mid-court to celebrate Warren latest of four straight regional boys basketball titles.

"We wanted to play well tonight because it the regional championship and it was our last home game as seniors," said the Western Illinois-bound Clark. "It is great to play here. Everyone comes out to support us, the little kids, the older people."

Logan, who was Warren's go-to guy early, agreed that the seniors wanted to end with a win at the Almond Road gym.

Warren survived the tempo dictated by Crystal Lake South and won, 47-33, to advance to the Waukegan sectional semifinal for the fourth straight season. The three seniors dominated the offense, as Clark had 12 points, 10 assists and six rebounds; Adams tallied 11, all in the second half, and Derrick had 14, including three first-half three-pointers.

"I got good screens in the second half and just got my shots," Adams said.

The 24-3 Blue Devils said they knew of South leader Jimmy

Saris (14 points), but Clark might have had a better scouting report than most.

"Jimmy Saris got into a groove and that opens it up for everyone else," Clark said. "He is a big player. He played with me on AAU ball freshman year, for the young Horizons league. He can score off the dribble, off the pass."

Saris scored 14 points to lead the Gators, including a half-court shot at the end of the third quarter.

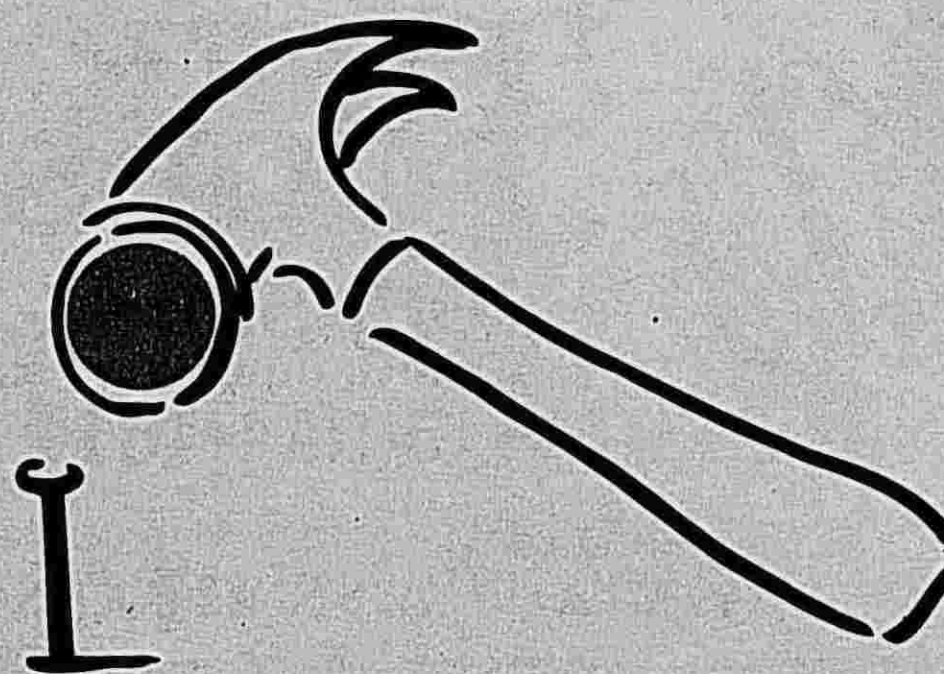
Beyond Saris' efforts, Warren coach Chuck Ramsey was most impressed with Crystal Lake South's slow motion game.

"It is a lot easier to slow a game down than try to speed it up," Ramsey said. "They did a nice job of controlling the tempo. They ran a lot of clock and packed it in defensively."

South had a 14-13 lead at one point, but Warren ended the second quarter on a run that produced a 9-point lead on a layup by Tayler Erbach.

"We realized that we were in a ball game and we're going to have to execute on both ends," Ramsey said.

Warren earned its fourth straight regional win after missing out in 2003. Warren also won regionals in 2001 and 2002.



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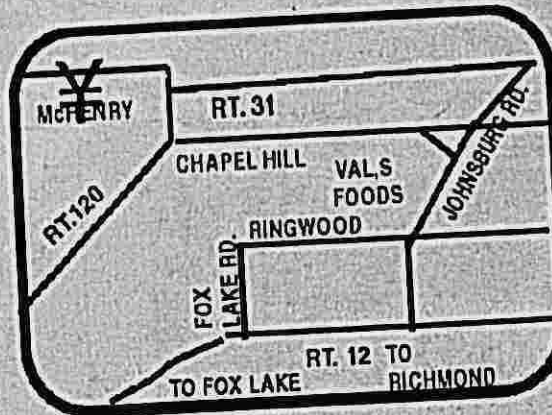
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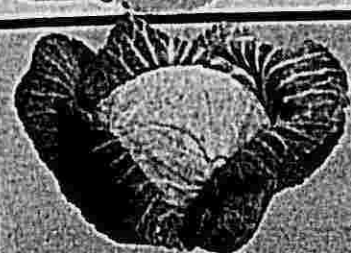
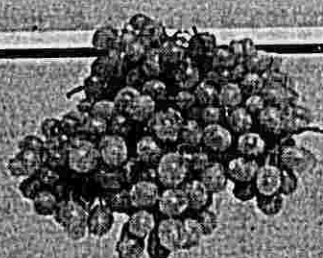
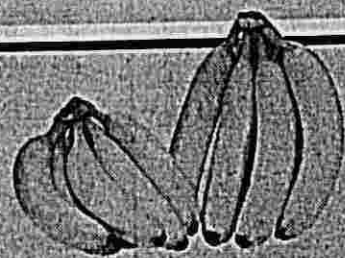
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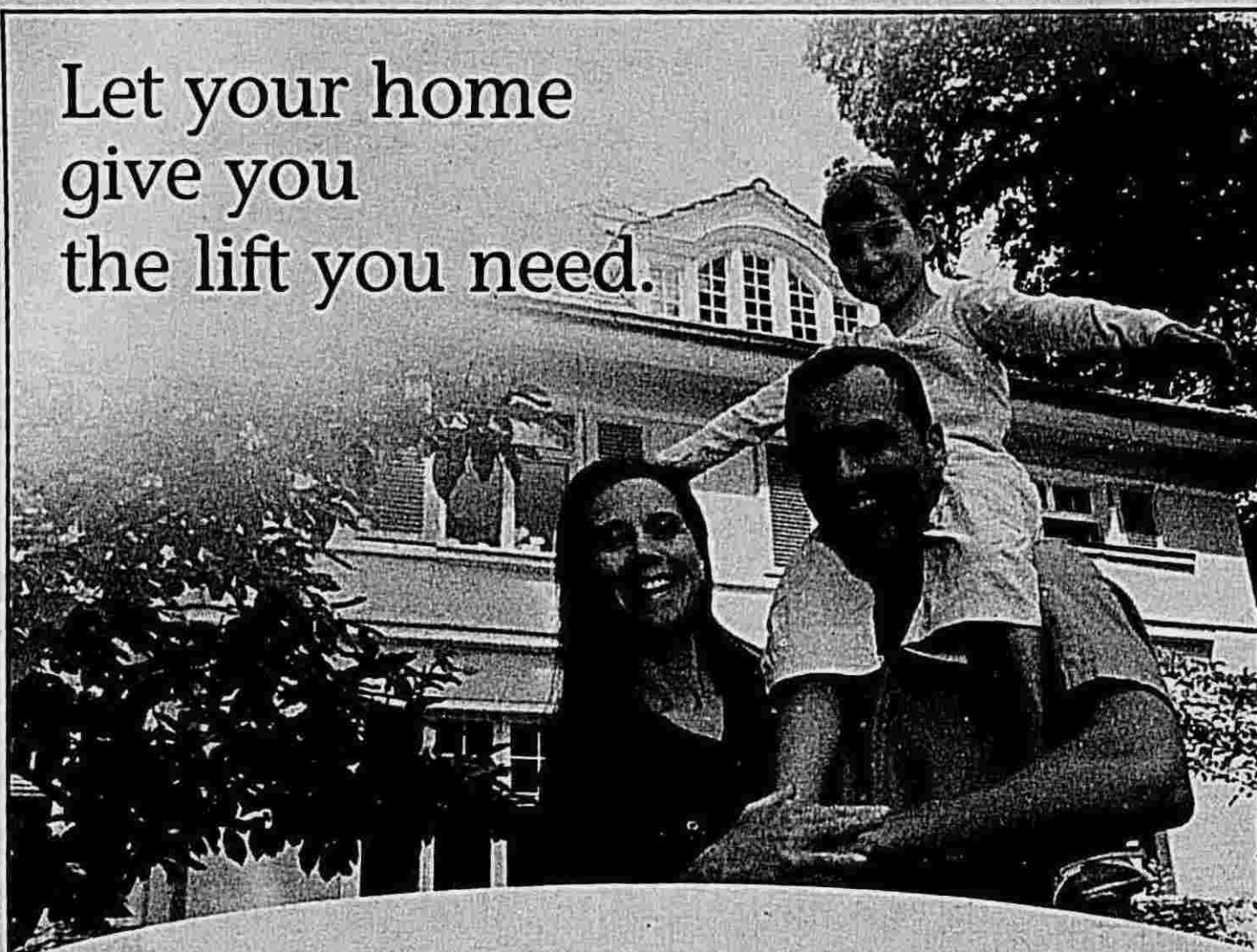
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IHSA CLASS AA CARY-GROVE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Prairie Ridge moves on with close win

By ROB SMITH
wjnews@nwnewsgruop.com

CARY - For most of the IHSA Class AA Cary-Grove Regional final, the Prairie Ridge boys basketball team was just trying keep pace with the up-tempo play and pressure defense of Waukegan.

"We wanted to slow the pace down and they just kept going up and down the floor," Prairie Ridge junior Mike Ungari said.

But with the score tied, 48-all, and less than 3 minutes remaining in the game, the Wolves went on a 10-3 run to defeat Waukegan, 58-51, and secure its fourth regional title in the past five years.

Prairie Ridge (20-11) lost to No. 1 sectional seed Warren, 47-30, on Tuesday in a Waukegan Sectional semifinal. Warren is ranked seventh in the state in Class AA.

Ungari led the fourth-seeded Wolves with 16 points and was 7-for-7 from the free-throw line. Six of the foul shots came in the fourth quarter, and Ungari made four straight to close out the game and preserve the victory.

"Mike has no fear," Prairie Ridge coach Corky Card said. "He just takes the ball and goes right at people."

Waukegan (11-17), the No. 13 seed, scored four quick points to open the fourth to go up by seven, 46-39. Prairie Ridge closed the gap, and with 2:25 to play, Heyen sank two free throws to give the Wolves their biggest lead of the game, 50-48.

"We really picked it up in the second half," the Wolves' Joe Parys said. "We hadn't played against that kind of pressure the whole year."

Waukegan started the game strong and led 13-6 midway through the first quarter. Only a



Shaun Sartin - ssartin@nwherald.com

Prairie Ridge's Kyle Heyen (33) grabs a rebound in front of Waukegan's Justin Richmond (30), while Prairie Ridge's Mike Ungari looks on.

pair of three-pointers by Parys, one from behind the arc, kept Prairie Ridge from a double digit deficit.

"I came out and had the first six points and that really boosted by confidence," Parys said.

Parys finished with 14 points, including three three-pointers.

With the Bulldogs putting pressure on every pass at both ends of the court, Prairie Ridge had to work to maintain possession, much less set up offensive plays.

"Every pass was an adventure," Card said. "We struggled the whole time."

While the intensity wasn't a surprise, Wolves' senior Kyle Heyen said preparing for it and playing against it were two different things.

"We knew what to expect, but we can't practice against their speed and athleticism," Heyen said. "It took us a while to get what we wanted out of the offense."

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

NEXTEL CUP SERIES

■ **Race:** UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400
 ■ **Where:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway (1.5 miles), 267 laps/400.5 miles.
 ■ **When:** Sunday
 ■ **Last year's winner:** Jimmie Johnson
 ■ **Qualifying record:** Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 174.904 mph, March 5, 2004.
 ■ **Race record:** Mark Martin, Ford, 146.554 mph, March 1, 1998.
 ■ **Last race:** For two years running, Cambridge, Wis.'s Matt Kenseth has come to California Speedway and felt as if it were home sweet home. It's not often that a flat tire smells like home cooking, either, but the one Kevin Harvick had in the waning laps of the Auto Club 500 sure came in handy. Maybe Kenseth would've

have won anyway, but he wasn't so sure. It became a moot point. Harvick, who won the Daytona 500 in a side-by-side finish, met disaster a week later when his Chevrolet had a flat tire at the worst possible time. The race had been stopped. Harvick's Chevy had been drawing ever closer to Kenseth's Ford when a grinding crash, one that knocked Toyota driver David Reutimann silly, occurred between turns three and four of the two-mile track. The crash occurred on lap 243. After the red flag, the green flag was set to wave again with Harvick now right on Kenseth's bumper and four laps remaining. Harvick never took the green flag. He rolled down pit road with a flat tire. As a result, Kenseth won it.

BUSCH SERIES

■ **Race:** Sam's Town 300
 ■ **Where:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway (1.5 miles), 200 laps/300 miles.
 ■ **When:** Saturday
 ■ **Last year's winner:** Kasey Kahne
 ■ **Qualifying record:** Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 171.238 mph, March 5, 2004.
 ■ **Race record:** Jeff Burton, Ford, 135.118 mph, March 4, 2000.
 ■ **Last week:** Juan Pablo Montoya, in a Dodge, won the third Busch Series race at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City. The previous year's winner, Denny Hamlin, finished second.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

■ **Race:** American Commercial Lines 200
 ■ **Where:** Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Ga. (1.54 miles), 130 laps/200.2 miles.
 ■ **When:** Friday, March 16
 ■ **Last year's winner:** Todd Bodine
 ■ **Qualifying record:** Rick Crawford, Ford, 182.735 mph, March 17, 2005.
 ■ **Race record:** Ron Hornaday Jr., Chevrolet, 142.424 mph, March 18, 2005.
 ■ **Last race:** Mike Skinner, in a Toyota, won the San Bernardino County 200 at California Speedway. It was his 20th career victory.

LAS VEGAS DATA

March 11



WHAT'S UP NEXT

TOP 10 IN POINTS

NEXTEL CUP

1. Mark Martin	335
2. Jeff Burton	-5
3. Jeff Gordon	-26
4. Kevin Harvick	-28
5. David Ragan*	-65
6. Clint Bowyer	-71
7. Joe Nemechek	-76
8. J.J. Yeley	-84
9. Kyle Busch	-96
10. David Stremme	-99

BUSCH SERIES

1. Carl Edwards	495
2. Denny Hamlin	-40
3. Dave Blaney	-62
4. Greg Biffle	-98
5. Kevin Harvick	-150
6. Marcos Ambrose*	-150
7. Matt Kenseth	-168
8. David Reutimann	-171
9. Jon Wood	-173
10. Brent Sherman	-185

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK SERIES

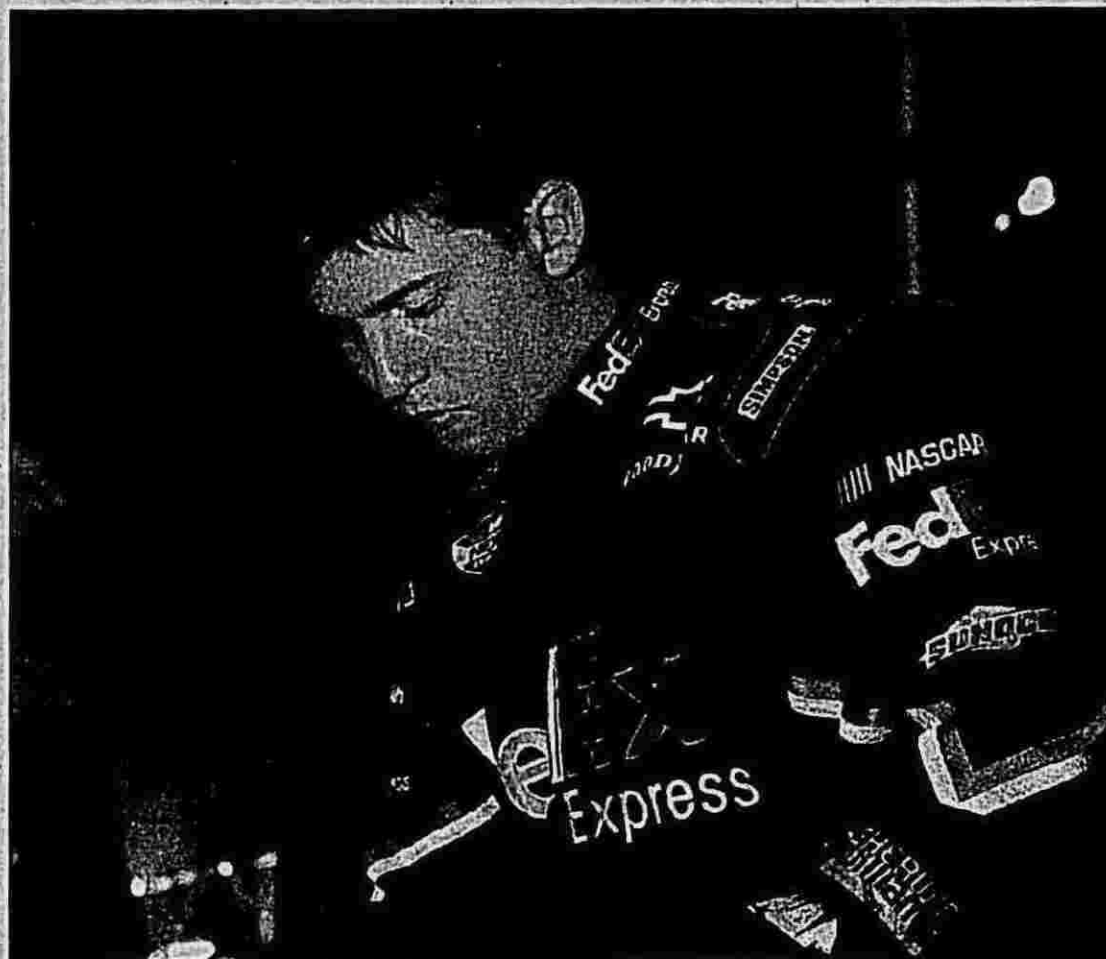
1. Jack Sprague	355
2. Mike Skinner	355
3. Johnny Benson	-25
4. Ron Hornaday Jr.	-34
5. Todd Bodine	-49
6. Ted Musgrave	-57
7. Travis Kvapil	-65
8. Rick Crawford	-78
9. Mike Crafton	-83
10. Erik Darnell	-99

* rookie

WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot** —
 Denny Hamlin (right), who gave International road racer Juan Pablo Montoya a run for his money in Mexico City.

► **Who's not** —
 Scott Pruett and Boris Sald, a couple of road racers who have often fared well in stock cars but have never actually won a NASCAR race.



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

FEUD OF THE WEEK



Pruett

Montoya

Scott Pruett vs. Juan Montoya

Montoya won the Busch Series race in Mexico City, but the victory came at the expense of teammate Pruett, who was leading until Montoya's Dodge bumped his out of the way. The stunt occurred moments after the owner of both cars, Chip Ganassi, told a television audience that the only "team order" was for his two drivers not to wreck each other. Pruett bumped the winning car after the checkered flag fell and said Montoya's tactics were "bad driving."

Monte Dutton gives his take:
 "During his Formula One days, Montoya was considered brilliant but reckless by many of his peers. There's a big difference between F1 and NASCAR. Montoya may have found a home."

Car of Tomorrow passes Bristol test, ready for next year

By Monte Dutton
 NASCAR This Week

The Car of Tomorrow got mostly favorable reviews in the Bristol Motor Speedway test sessions last week. The new design will debut there in the Nextel Cup race on March 25.

All resignations have been set aside. Though many drivers and teams wonder privately about a need for a new car, NASCAR officials have put years of development into the new cars, which have been called ugly, ungainly and generic. In fact, NASCAR officials

NUTS AND BOLTS

have talked frankly about fully implementing the new design in 2008, a year ahead of schedule.

"It's really hard to say what the Car of Tomorrow will bring to NASCAR," said Richard Petty, the sport's all-time leader with 200 victories. "It's made all of us start all over again. ... I think it's going to be good. I think it will take some of the aerodynamics away from the car, make it safer, and I don't see anything but positives."

"We've been racing these same cars for 12 or 15 years. I

think the fans are getting ready for something new, too. The crews are getting ready for a new challenge."

Among current drivers, Jeff Gordon has probably been the most outspoken in his doubts about the new car. He has cautioned against fully implementing it too quickly.

"I think the teams that feel good about it are the ones that are probably not winning right now because they think this car is going to bring them into a box that is going to keep costs down and also maybe get the competition a little bit closer," said Gordon. "I hope all those

things are true, but I still think the top teams are going to be the ones that come out on top."

"We (Hendrick Motorsports) are probably further ahead than anybody out there on the Car of Tomorrow. As far as preparation, speed and all that, we're fine. The frustrating things for me are that, compared to the race car we have been driving, this car is nothing like it and won't do any of the things you would want it to do."

Hamlin's ready — Denny

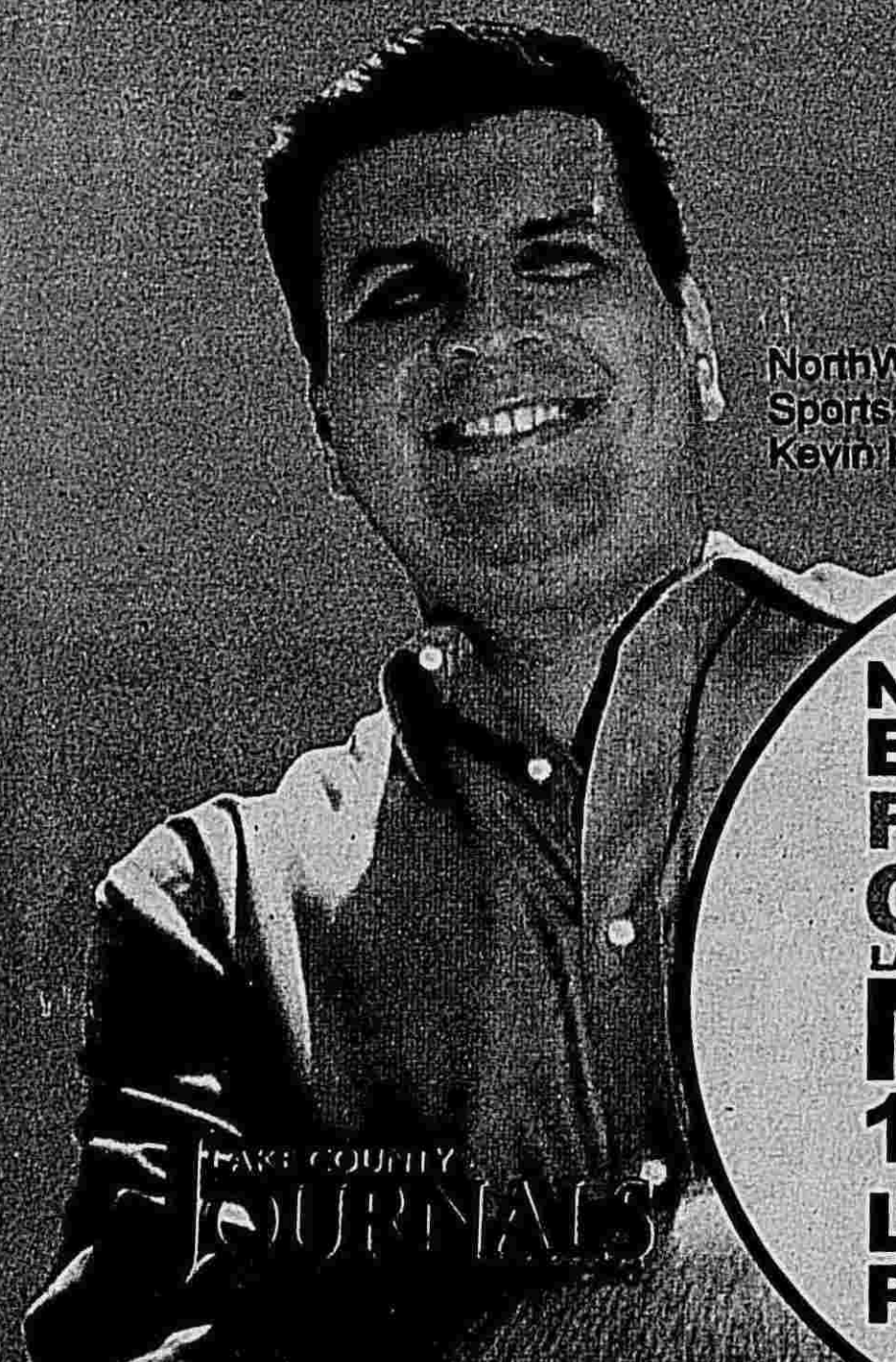
Hamlin was notably fast in the Bristol sessions, and he may have left the COT test in the best frame of mind of anyone there.

Asked about his speeds, Hamlin said: "It means our team has done a whole lot of homework on this program the last couple of years. This is the first really official test where guys are bringing their race stuff. I'm pretty happy about where we're standing because not only are we fast, but we're really good on the long runs and that really matters here."

"I'm really excited about coming back."

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Views

Playing the odds

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43 - Daily debates on talk radio as to whether Alfonso Soriano should be playing in center field.

43 - Daily debates on talk radio as to whether Soriano should be leading off.

Never - Exact moment that Lou Piniella will actually listen or care.

\$500 - Average amount spent by Cubs fans when 2007 tickets went on sale last week.

\$50 - Average amount Cubs fan will receive after putting tickets on Craigslist once team has tanked by August.

10 - Game days new Cubs pitcher Neal Cotts will instinctively head to work south on Lake Shore Drive instead of north toward Wrigley Field.

15 - Venezuelan jokes Ozzie Guillen will crack before he stops looking to see whether Freddy Garcia thought it was funny.

May 1 - Date when White Sox fans finally will be able to tell the young pitchers apart without an illustrated scorecard.

Sept. 1 - Date when those in Wrigley bleachers will be able to tell Ted Lilly and Jason Marquis apart.

April 15 - Day when Bulls games will start meaning something (and not a minute sooner).

All of them - Baseball cards John Paxson refused to trade while he was a boy, claiming they all would be All-Stars someday.

3 - Years it will take Luol Deng to represent Bulls in All-Star Game.

3,000 - Memphis natives still wondering what the heck Pau Gasol is saying.

57 - Members of Chicago Mountnmen Beard Club upset Gasol did not become a Bull.

5 - Occasions Michael McCaskey patted his back pocket Thursday to make sure his wallet was still there.

4 - Hand cramps Bears president Ted Phillips claimed to have while inking Lovie

Smith's contract extension.

\$4 million - Amount Smith should disburse to Bears' fans and media for leading the charge on his contract talks.

Six hours - Time it will take Bears to announce a second ticket price increase so team can afford Smith and others.

20 - More times we'll see Drew Rosenhaus in Bourbonnais than his client, linebacker Lance Briggs.

10 - Percent chance Peyton Manning has of being funny while hosting "Saturday Night Live" on March 24.

95 - Percent chance this will not be the fault of

Manning, but rather a tired ensemble and a parody-dependent writing crew.

1 - Big Ten basketball team that will reach the Sweet 16.

Slim -

Chance that team will be Illinois.

0.5 - NCAA teams you would actually feel comfortable betting the house on when it comes to reaching a Final Four.

3 - Wins Raiders will average each year under possible QB JaMarcus Russell.

8 - Picks that will pass before undrafted Notre Dame QB Brady Quinn starts to break a sweat.

10-20 - Sentence, in years, Titans CB Pacman Jones will receive after attending next year's NBA All-Star Game in New Orleans.

1,238 - Shades of red Titans coach Jeff Fisher turned after he heard about Jones' latest trouble.

0.5 - Number of times this writer has ever "made it rain" in a crowded Las Vegas club.

10 - Amount of penny sleeves it would take this writer to "make it hail."

• Kevin Kaduk is the Northwest Herald's sports columnist. Write to him at kkaduk@nwnewsgroup.com.



Kevin
Kaduk

IHSA CLASS AA LAKES REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mundelein gets its winning season

By DANIEL J. PATRICK
dpatrick@nwnewsgroup.com

LAKE VILLA - On this day, the basketball offensive gods were smiling down on Lake Villa as Mundelein and Lakes put up a combined 163 points in a high school regional championship that resulted in a 91-72 Mundelein win.

But judging by the two competitors' records, this was about the only way this game could be played.

Mundelein (22-8) came into the game sporting a 76.7 points a game average and had never scored less than 50 points in any game during the course of the season. As the proverbial cherry on top, the Mustangs scored 90 or more points in four games. After the IHSA Class AA Lakes Regional championship, you can make that five.

As for Lakes, in just two years of varsity competition, the Eagles shot to the top of North Suburban Conference-Prairie competition, winning the division with a 9-1 record and coming within a point of dethroning Warren in the NSC championship.

Consistency was the name of the game for the Mustangs, as Mundelein scored 22 points in each of the first three quarters. First, it was Raffi Mantilla's turn, as he led the way with eight in the first quarter, then it was Pat Barron with eight of his own in the second, and then Chris Millner led with nine off of two three's in the third.

Just between Barron (23 points), Mantilla (21 points, nine rebounds) and Navjot Singh (17 points, five rebounds), the Mustangs rode its core group of horses to a big regional championship win.

Perhaps what makes Mundelein's 22-8 season even more impressive is the team's overnight rise to greatness after just 12 total wins in the last three seasons. In the last two, coach Dick Knar has amassed an 11-44 record with the Mustangs.

"Compared to where we've been in the past, this is just incredible," Millner (10 points) said. "This is the first time we've even had a winning sea-



Annie Christie - achristie@nwnewsgroup.com

Lakes's Kevin Guirand shoots a jumper as Wauconda's Kyle Vogel defends during the Cary-Grove Regional semifinal game. Lakes beat Wauconda 73-63, only to lose to Mundelein in the regional championship game.

son in so long and to think that we've just won a regional championship is amazing."

Mantilla echoed his teammate's words. He was especially proud of his senior group that has stayed with the program through thick and thin.

"This is a long time coming and it's just a great feeling," Mantilla said. "Our struggles in the last couple of years definitely made this win sweeter. We've been through hardship and now we're reaping the benefits of persevering."

The with the regional championship win the Mustangs went on to face No. 3 seed Zion-Benton on Wednesday, March 7. Results for the game were not available at press time.

While Mundelein has been waiting for a regional championship since its last one 1999, Lakes has seemingly been building toward greatness since the varsity program began just two years ago.

● Hometown Sports

Emmons School wins St. Peters Invitational Tournament

Antioch's Emmons School eighth grade girls basketball team definitely had something to celebrate after winning the St.

Peters Invitational Tournament championship. Coaches Dan Wiegel and Rich Murphey guided the team to a 40-30 win in the championship game Feb. 25. Team members are Mollie

Jeschke, Rachel Kurzeja, Nicole Kelly, Lauren Tiffany, Cassie Breneisen, Cassie Wolf, Rachel Mahr, Cortney McCarthy, Jenna Schaen, Amber Dalgaard and Jessie Richter.



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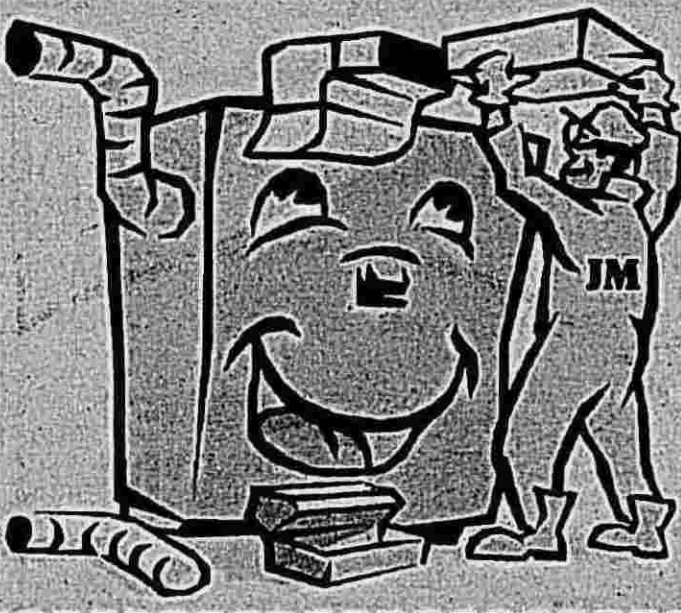
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